Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

With the defeat of candidates aligned with him and the possibility that he may be impeached in January, should Gov. Benigno R. Fitial resign now?

Yes 232
No 36

Sunday, November 18, 2012

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Twinkies are being sold on the Internet like exquisite delicacies.

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The Israeli military widened its range of targets in the Gaza Strip.

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The three stars of "Twilight" must now step into careers of their own.

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September visitor arrivals soar by 20 percent. PAGE 3

NMI takes a bite of lucrative Beijing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For Daisy Zeng, a media and marketing manager at the Beijing-based Ctrip Vacations, a few hours travel from China's capital this time of the year, which she said could be "very cold," to a tropical weather destination such as Saipan, is a welcome respite that would resonate well with tourists from Beijing.

"It was very cold in Beijing when we left, at negative 4 degrees. Saipan is 28 degrees. Tourists from Beijing will like the weather here," Zeng told *Saipan Tribune*, moments after China Eastern Air-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A female passenger, right, of China Eastern Airlines' maiden charter flight from Beijing is greeted with shell leis and a warm Hafa Adai at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Friday morning.

CNMI has new attorney general

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Senate honors late Ruth Tighe

TINIAN—Joey Patrick San Nicolas made history Friday when he became the first attorney general from Tinian. He will also be the last "appointed" AG in CNMI history as voters are scheduled to "elect"—for the first time—their highest law enforcement officer in November 2014.

San Nicolas assumes his new post at a time when the Office of the Attorney General is mired in controversy over crimi-

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Joey Patrick San Nicolas, right, is sworn into office as the CNMI's new attorney general by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, while San Nicolas' wife Vilma, left, holds the Bible in a brief ceremony that followed the Senate's confirmation of the AG nominee at a packed Tinian Courthouse on Friday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Military assures of Marianas' increasing importance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Forum brings together 200 military officials, contractors

» Tinian gears up for Operation Forager Fury

TINIAN—U.S. Naval Forces Marianas-Joint Region Commander Rear Adm. Tilghman D. Payne and other dignitaries assured of the Marianas' increasing importance in the ongoing "rebalancing" of forces to the Asia-Pacific region. At the same Friday forum, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz asked for more than "transient" training exercises, including building a permanent military base on island.

Dela Cruz, however, said there is "light at the end of the tunnel" if the U.S. Air Force builds its needed "divert" or alternative airport facility on Tinian.

"Unfortunately, the U.S. Air Force is not represented here today," he said in his opening remarks. "However, I am certain that the U.S. Marine Corps officers in this room, and perhaps Admiral Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas, will agree that building the divert facility on Tinian would greatly improve the possibility of a larger development of Tinian—as the multi-service training base it was originally planned to be."

The "U.S. Military Contracting Forum II," hosted by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, brought together some 200 military and CNMI officials and contractors at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Payne spoke of rebalancing forces to the Asia-Pacific region and the increasing strategic importance of the Marianas.

In an interview later, Payne said the "important" forum helps build "communication between local community, the business community, and the U.S. military."

"As we rebalance to the Pacific, we're looking at some opportunities for the local businesses in the Marianas and this is a great way to establish that rapport so that both the military and the things that we need to do in the Northern Marianas benefit and the local community also benefits…" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Groundwork laid out

Sen. Jim Webb of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Service and Guam Del-

See MILITARY on Page 4

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Local

Mirano gets 142 days in prison for bank fraud

The U.S. District Court on Thursday sentenced Earl Eric Mirano to 142 days in prison for forging and then cashing stale CNMI tax refund checks.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Mirano to serve 142 days of imprisonment for two counts of bank fraud. Upon his release, he will be turned over to immigration for deportation from the CNMI. He will be barred from re-entering the United States without the permission of the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

If deportation does not occur and Mirano is released from prison pending further immigration proceedings, he is required to immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin his term of supervised release lasting two years.

He is barred from committing another federal, state, or local crime; he shall not unlawfully use or possess a controlled substance; and is prohibited from possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon or have them where he resides.

Mirano is also barred from incurring new credit charges or opening new lines of credit without the approval of the probation officer.

He was also ordered to perform 25 hours of community service, pay restitution of $2,898.14 and special assessment of $200.

He has 14 days to appeal the sentence.

Mirano was found guilty in July this year of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and bank fraud for cashing old CNMI tax refund checks. The charges stem from a superseding indictment filed on June 7, 2012, against Mirano and Mohammad Jahangir Miah. The six-day jury trial was heard by Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Miah was acquitted on July 10, 2012. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

CNMI in anti-cigarette smuggling measure passed by the US House

The U.S. House of Representatives passed last week a bill that added the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa to the list of those protected by the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act.

H.R. 5934, sponsored by American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega, now heads to the U.S. Senate for action.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), one of five original co-sponsors of the bill, said the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act "makes it a federal crime to ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute, or purchase 10,000 or more contraband cigarettes."

"Since the Commonwealth taxes cigarettes sold in the Northern Marianas, extending federal law to combat smuggling could help increase local revenues. The law would also protect legitimate businesses that pay the tax from unfair competition from the cheaper, untaxed contraband cigarettes," said Sablan, who recently won his re-election bid.

Sablan also signed last week as a cosponsor of HR 6441, reauthorizing the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which provided grants for projects in the CNMI in 2010 and 2012.

"HR 6441 will keep the Foundation going through 2017 with $20 million of funding to distribute each year to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources," he said.

The 2010 grants went to SeaWeb to create the "Our Laolao" marketing campaign, which aims to reduce negative impacts on the environment of the Bay, and to the Pacific Marine Resources Institute to improve coral monitoring programs.

In 2012, the foundation granted funding to Micronesian Environmental Services to evaluate the impact of various fishing methods on Rota fisheries. The Division of Environmental Quality also won monies to continue the coral reef restoration in Laolao. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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NMI's September visitor arrivals soar by 20 percent

Overall visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 15 percent to 389,475 visitors in fiscal year 2012 ending September, compared to the previous fiscal year. The primary markets of Japan and Korea, as well as the secondary markets of China and Russia, all posted gains in fiscal year 2012 compared to 2011.

Several local and international factors played a role in the increase, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

"First, we had more flights from Korea, and China in [fiscal year] 2012 than in the previous fiscal year, giving travelers from these two key markets more access to the Northern Mariana Islands," said Tenorio. "At the same time, greater demand helped keep those air seats filled and flights operating. This was due in part to more Chinese traveling abroad, as well as strategic promotions by the MVA and our travel partners in our primary and secondary markets, including a pre-summer blitz and the opening of our China promotional office this past summer."

In the closing month of the fiscal year, September 2012 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands soared 20 percent compared to September 2011. According to the MVA, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 30,472 visitors in September compared to 25,408 in September 2011.

Arrivals from Japan edged 1 percent higher for the fiscal year. In September, arrivals reached 12,244 visitors, 3 percent higher than September last year, as the Japan market continues to stabilize and re-establish its position as the Northern Marianas' number one source market of incoming tourists. Delta Air Lines launched an additional four weekly flights from Narita on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday in July, continuing through Sept. 24.

Arrivals from Korea jumped 19 percent for the fiscal year. Arrivals from Korea in September posted an eighth consecutive month of double-digit increases, up 31 percent versus the previous year to 8,836 visitors. Asiana Airlines relaunched a second weekly service from Busan to Saipan on June 13, which had been suspended since June of last year due to lack of available aircraft. Looking ahead, the supply of air seats to the NMI out of the Korea market is projected to continue to increase in the final quarter of the year, with Asiana Airlines boosting its Busan-Saipan service from two to four flights a week beginning Nov. 20, and ensuring continued strong growth in Korean arrivals through the end of the year.

In fiscal year 2012, the Northern Marianas received 70 percent more visitors from China compared to the previous year due to the launch of new flights, including six weekly flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou. In September, arrivals from China jumped 46 percent to 6,586 visitors. Continuous significant growth in Chinese arrivals is projected through the end of the year, thanks to China's National Day holidays in October, the launch of three weekly flights by China Eastern Airlines from Beijing beginning Friday, Nov. 16, and ongoing major media and travel agent promotions launched by the MVA's new China office.

Meanwhile, although arrivals were down 8 percent from Russia to 199 in September, overall arrivals from this secondary market increased 10 percent in fiscal year 2012 compared to the previous year. Bi-weekly charter flights by AviaCharter DV commenced from Vladivostok in late October 2012 and are expected to drive significantly higher arrivals from Russia through March 2013.

"FY 2012 was a strong year of recovery, but much work remains to be done to restore a healthy tourism economy in the Northern Marianas," said Tenorio. "Everyone has a role to play, and we encourage the government, our private sector partners, and individual members of the community to stay focused on the crucial importance of tourism to the economy of the NMI. A healthy tourism economy means increased government revenues and makes our islands a better place to live and do business."

In fiscal year 2012, arrivals were lower from most other markets: Guam (down 5 percent to 14,784), the United States (down 6 percent to 8,381), Hong Kong (down 64 percent to 672), the Philippines (unchanged at 540), and Other Areas (down 34 percent to 2,966).

For the month of September, arrivals were higher from the United States (up 116 percent to 1,178) and Other Areas (up 14 percent to 187), lower from Guam (down 13 percent to 1,059) and Hong Kong (down 56 percent to 39), and unchanged from the Philippines (40 arrivals).

Economic Highlights

The September economic report by the Japanese Cabinet Office assessed that the recovery in Japan is stagnating "due to the deceleration of the world economy." In September, the Japanese yen remained basically flat against the U.S. dollar to close at 80.87 yen. The Japan National Tourism Organization reported a preliminary total of 1,965,000 Japanese traveled overseas in August, the highest August total ever.

The Korean government plans to spend $305.6 billion in 2013, an increase of 5.3 percent compared to the previous year, with the aim of boosting Korea's sagging economy while maintaining fiscal health. Korea's consumer spending grew at a slower pace than the country's economic growth for the past three years, adding to concerns that domestic demand in Korea may further cool. The won/dollar exchange rate declined 27.8 from previous month to finish at 1,105.6, due to the China-Japan territorial conflict and other reasons. According to the Korea Tourism Organization, the number of Korean outbound travelers in August was 1,334,651, an increase of 7 percent compared to the same month in 2011. (***(MVA)***

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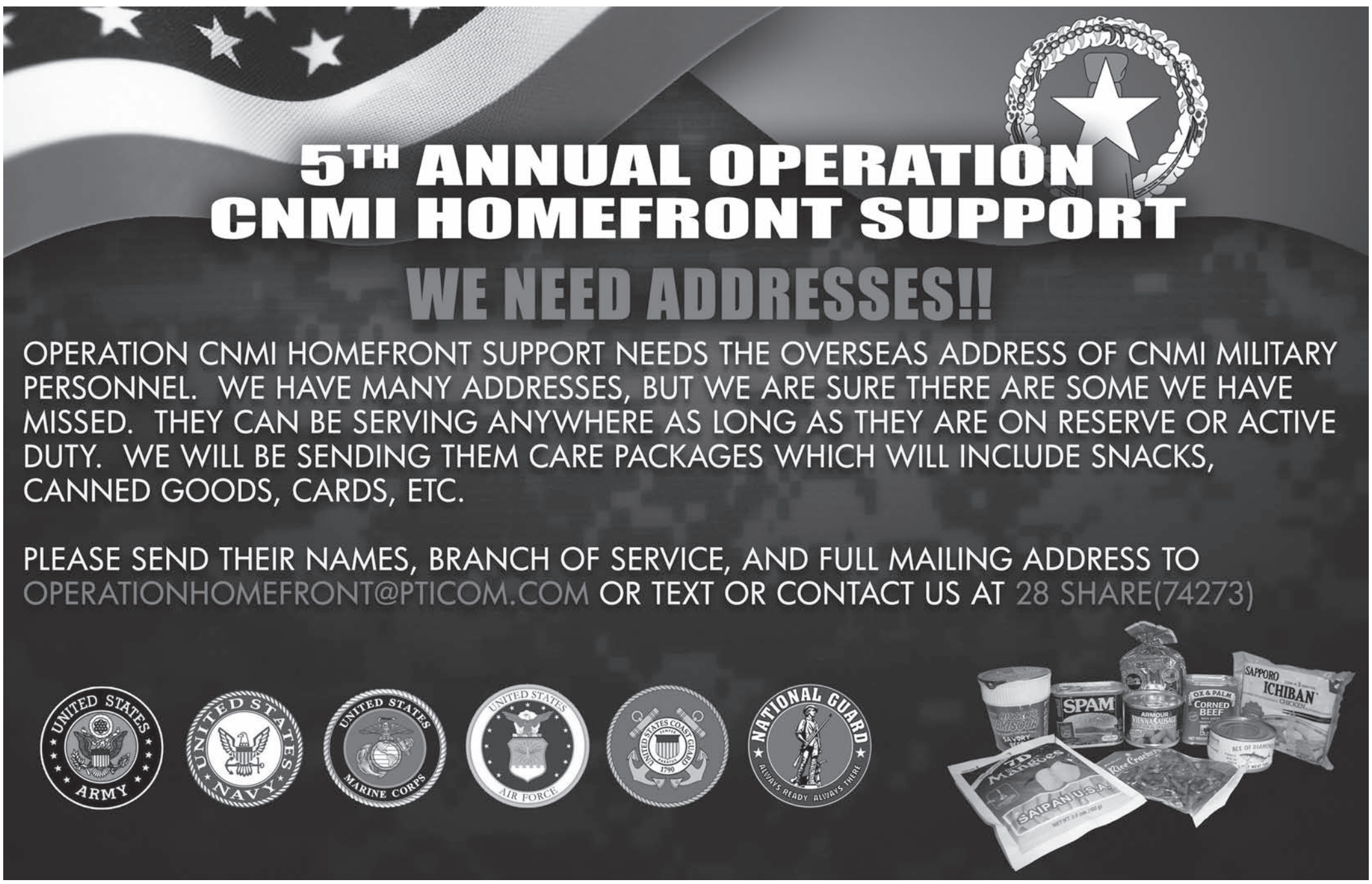
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MILITARY

From Page 1

egate Madeleine Bordallo gave video messages at the conference on the status of the Marianas buildup.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), who traveled to Tinian for the forum, said, "As Senator Webb and Congresswoman Bordallo explained, the shift of forces to the Marianas is the U.S. plan."

"It will not occur at the breakneck speed that some people first thought. But there will be a buildup here. The groundwork is already well laid," he said.

Sablan said a comprehensive environmental study was completed and a Record of Decision was released in 2010.

"There was some adjustment to that this year to reflect the reduction in the number of Marines coming to the Marianas, but that adjustment does not affect Tinian. We have a Memorandum of Agreement on how to handle historic and cultural resources that may come to light. Most significantly, there is already military activity here on Tinian. And there will be more," Sablan told the forum participants.

Sablan said that by the end of Friday's forum, contractors will be more familiar with the contracting procedures that will allow them to work with the U.S. military.

Boris Hertslet, program manager at the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center, talked about the basics of contracting with the U.S. government.

Capt. John V. Heckmann Jr., commanding officer of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, along with NAVFAC Marianas small business adviser Albert Sampson, made a presentation on "military contracting" for small businesses.

Military exercises

Payne said since last spring, Tinian has been seeing—and will continue to see—military training and exercises.

They include Operation Forager Fury from Nov. 29 to around Dec. 12, with some 300 U.S. Marines stationed in Japan participating in the Tinian portion of the exercise. Guam will host some 700 Marines for the event.

Marine Air Group-12, based in Iwakuni, Japan, under the 1st Aircraft Wing of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted Operation Geiger Fury on Tinian last May. Another exercise was held on Tinian in September.

"I think what Tinian has seen is a result of our…military rebalances forces to the Pacific, the increase in the training and the exercises and taking advantage of the opportunity to come to the Marianas. And Tinian is a fabulous training place to do exercise and training. I would expect to probably maintain that, maybe not the exact same tempo, but more and more people coming here as we bring more forces out to the Pacific," Payne added.

He said geographically, "Tinian has always been critical."

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

During World War II, Tinian had the busiest airfield in the world. It was the launching pad of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, putting a decisive end to the war.

Divert airfield

However, the Tinian mayor said in his forum remarks that when island residents voted for the creation of the Commonwealth in 1975, "including giving up two-thirds of their island to the Department of Defense, it was only because they believed that a vote for the Covenant was a vote for a military base that would provide Tinian with a long-term, stable economy."

"It is now near the end of 2012 and still there is no permanent base for any American military unit on Tinian," Dela Cruz said.

Toward the end of his remarks, the mayor asked that military officials in the room to discuss with U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. John W Doucette to "make use of their long-term interests in training on Tinian."

Dela Cruz also hoped that re-elected President Barack Obama and the Defense secretary "will agree that spending a few dollars more on the construction of the divert facility on Tinian will be in the long-term best interest" of the United States and the CNMI.

"Or at least build the tactical portion of the divert base on Tinian, which has already proven it can handle hot refueling operations for F-18s, thanks to Geiger Fury," he said.

He added that the development of an aircraft refueling system on Tinian would complete the development of the Tinian West Field International Airport that would facilitate direct commercial flights from Asia to Tinian.

Tinian has the only operating casino in the CNMI.

"Tinian would become to Saipan, what the Big Island is to Oahu. And it would provide for the hotel rooms and restaurants the Air Force holds so near and dear to its personnel," Dela Cruz said, adding that Tinian remains to be full and active partner with the U.S. military.

What Chamber asked

Sablan cited some things that the Tinian Chamber of Commerce has asked about the buildup from the business point of view.

One of those is the possibility of getting congressional directed spending or "earmarks" to pay for specific projects on Tinian but he said the Republicans in Congress made a "no earmarks rule."

Sablan said the Defense Access Road Program, meanwhile, has averaged only about $20 million annually since 1957 and Tinian faces tough competition getting a share of the pie.

But the re-elected delegate said there is plenty of opportunity for federally financed road building in the CNMI.

He said data from the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs shows that from 2006 to 2012, the CNMI has received a total of $37.6 million for roadwork.

But Sablan said of this amount, as of September 30th, the CNMI has only expended, or paid out, $8.6 million.

"That means we have about $29 million in road money that Congress has already appropriated. Contractors should be clamoring for our local government to start spending those funds. In addition to reducing the wear and tear on people's cars, that $29 million could be creating jobs, and enhancing our tourism economy by making it easier for our guests to get around," he said.

Lt. Col. Aisha Bakkar, public affairs officer for the U.S. Marine Corps in Guam, made a presentation on "Tinian Marines: United—Past, Present and Future," while Brandy Untalan of GSA, Federal Acquisition Service Asia Pacific region presented on "doing business with the General Services Administration."

There were also presentations on the Small Business Development Center services, Military Integration Office, rural development funding opportunities, opportunities to sell goods and services to the Defense Logistics Agency, and procurement fraud.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, made the closing remarks.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, president of the 120-member strong Tinian Chamber of Commerce, served as master of ceremony.

BEIJING

From Page 1

lines' maiden charter flight from Beijing touched down at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Friday morning.

Ji Kaoshang, captain of the inaugural China Eastern flight from Beijing, said they touched down at 1:10am Friday. This was much earlier than the expected 1:50am arrival.

The A330 aircraft brought with it 295 passengers, including 22 media and tourism travel partners, including Zeng.

Zeng said a U.S. visa waiver and direct Beijing-Saipan flight of five hours is a come-on for Beijing tourists, on top of a good destination product—tropical island weather, beautiful beaches, an array of diving spots and marine sports.

"This is a good destination for vacation, for honeymoon, because of the weather, the beaches, visa waiver, direct flight, only five hours. Price is also not expensive," Zeng said in an interview as they waited for the rest of the media and travel partners group to clear immigration at the airport.

Shell leis and "Hafa Adai" greeted the passengers as they exited the immigration area, courtesy of a welcoming group from the Marianas Visitors Authority led by marketing manager Bruce Bateman and marketing assistant Agatha Ketebengang, along with Century Tours vice president for destination management Alexander R.J. Stutely.

As passengers entered the baggage claim and customs area, they were treated to the sounds and sights of a traditional Marianas dance.

Stutely said Century Tours is glad to have the first China Eastern flight from Beijing to finally arrive. Century Tours, a travel and tour service company with headquarters in Shanghai and is a subsidiary of Luen Thai Enterprises, chartered the plane from China Eastern Airlines.

"It's really a fantastic feeling for us because we've been working very hard for the past few months to try to make this happen so it's really good to see them actually arriving here on Saipan," Stutely said as the last passengers were making their way to the customs area.

He said the "first few flights are already fully booked."

With 295 passengers arriving from Beijing every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Saipan will have almost 900 additional tourists every week.

"We invited about 22 media from China because we wanted to really give some exposure in China, what the CNMI really has to offer, so they can see the different products, see the quality of the beaches, the hotels, and hopefully spread the word back in China, how fantastic the CNMI really is," Stutely added.

Hosting the media and travel partners in their familiarization tour are Century Tours and private tourism businesses on Saipan, including hotels.

Stutely said tapping the Beijing market is a big leap for the CNMI's tourism industry.

"Beiing is the capital of China. Up until now, we've mainly been focusing on the Shanghai market. We've had flights from Beijing before but this is really the first time ever we have regular three-time weekly flights coming from Beijing," he said.

Prior to China Eastern's flight, Sichuan Airlines has been the only one providing regular charter service from China through its four-times-a-week schedule from Shanghai and twice weekly flight from Guangzhou. Century Tours also charters these flights.

The one-year plan to bring in direct flights from Bejing could stretch to several years.

"Our plan is to really keep it going," Stutely added.

CNMI

From Page 1

nal charges and other concerns against former attorney general Edward Buckingham, a high turnover rate of government attorneys, and lawmakers' continuing plans to impeach the governor, among other things.

San Nicolas said he's aware of the "mountain of challenges" and vowed to restore trust and confidence in the OAG.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said the Senate is "confident that Attorney General San Nicolas will lead the office in the right direction in the midst of all the recent publicity the office had the past few months."

"He's got a lot of work ahead of him but he's the right choice," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune.*

By a vote of 9-0, the Senate confirmed San Nicolas's nomination at a packed Tinian Courthouse at 11:43am on Friday.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who also flew to Tinian Friday morning with first lady Josie Fitial, swore in San Nicolas afterwards. They had to wait, however, for some six minutes to find a Bible where San Nicolas will rest his left hand while taking his oath of office.

Others in the packed courthouse offered their electronic gadgets for an e-Bible or a Bible App on their cellular phone, but San Nicolas and his family waited for the actual book.

At noon, San Nicolas was sworn in, witnessed by all nine senators led by outgoing Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and other island officials, acting AG Viola Alepuyo, chief prosecutor Peter Prestley, press secretary Angel Demapan, acting Public Lands secretary Ray Salas, management and budget adviser Vicky Villagomez, San Nicolas' relatives, and other members of the community.

Holding the Bible was his wife Vilma and their children beside them. The crowd applauded when the swearing in was over.

The crowd was later invited to a lunch reception at Taga Beach.

Fitial said he's happy and pleased that his nominee was confirmed. "He's not only intelligent, also very well mannered. I think he will do a very god job," the governor told reporters at the courthouse.

The scheduled 10am Senate session didn't begin until 11:35am, mainly because of delayed flights from Saipan.

Other officials also had to attend two other major events happening simultaneously on Tinian on Friday—the U.S. Military Contracting Forum II, and the Association of Mariana Islands' Mayors, Vice Mayors and Elected Municipal Council Members' 19th General Assembly, both at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Residency

At the session, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, urged his colleagues to adopt EAGI's Standing Committee Report 17-90, recommending San Nicolas' confirmation.

Cruz said the panel is "convinced beyond a doubt" that San Nicolas possesses the qualification and leadership skills necessary to serve as CNMI attorney general based on a review of his credentials and oral and written testimony.

San Nicolas submitted the required documents, except the results of his drug test. As standard condition, if any confirmed nominee's drug test comes back positive, the Senate will automatically withdraw the confirmation.

Cruz also said that the EAGI Committee has "carefully addressed the attorney general's residency and domiciliary requirements as it pertains to the appointment of Mr. San Nicolas."

The NMI Constitution provides that the attorney general shall be a resident and a domiciliary of the CNMI "for at least three years immediately preceding the date on which the attorney general is confirmed."

Cruz referred to a Senate legal opinion that states San Nicolas "meets the residency and domiciliary requirement pursuant to Article III Section 11 of the NMI Constitution" because the nominee "did not abandon Tinian as his domiciliary and he returned to Tinian after a short employment on Guam."

San Nicolas worked as assistant attorney general at the Guam Attorney General's Office from February 2011 to January 2012. He came back to the CNMI and worked as staff attorney at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

San Nicolas's predecessor, Buckingham, has been declared a fugitive from justice within days after departing the CNMI in the early morning of Aug. 4 despite a penal summons to appear in court two days later, in connection with criminal charges filed against him.

The charges included alleged violation of local and federal election law. A day before leaving the CNMI, Buckingham signed a no-bid $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement that is now also a subject of a lawsuit.

Buckingham's criminal cases and the governor's inability to remove his AG were among the factors in a movement to impeach the governor. But because the House leadership was aligned with the governor, the minority bloc's impeachment resolution was defeated.

With almost all the governor's House candidates wiped out during the Nov. 6 midterm elections, the new House majority will re-introduce in January 2013 the impeachment resolution with 16 "yes" votes expected. Only at least 14 "yes" votes in the House are needed to impeach a sitting governor, and six "yes" votes in the Senate to convict.

Karidat lauds two banks for their tireless support

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Officers of Karidat Social Services present a plaque of appreciation to Lisa San Nicolas, Bank of Hawaii assistant vice president and service manager for CNMI branches, left, and Marcie M. Tomokane, Bank of Guam vice president and CNMI regional manager, during a ceremony on Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

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REPORTER

Karidat Social Services recognized Bank of Hawaii and Bank of Guam for their generous support and contribution to the agency.

Executive director Angie V. Guerrero and other Karidat officials presented a plaque of appreciation to executives of both banks before Friday's raffle draw at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Guerrero said Karidat is very appreciative of the contributions of the two banks, which are their major sponsors for 2012. The plaques "are just a small way of acknowledging" the banks' role in helping Karidat accomplish its mission, she added.

"We know everyone is struggling but they remain with us in helping the people in the community. They're always there for the people and they show it by helping a nonprofit organization like Karidat so we can reach out to the less fortunate in the community," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lisa San Nicolas, Bank of Hawaii assistant vice president and service manager for CNMI branches, said Karidat is one of the two groups their institution has helped consistently over the years.

"Bank of Hawaii is pleased to support an organization like Karidat because it helps people who are really in need. We will continue providing assistance to Karidat in years to come," she said.

For her part, Bank of Guam vice president and CNMI regional manager Marcie M. Tomokane said their financial institution is proud to have been part of the Northern Marianas for the past 32 years and helping Karidat and other organizations is one way of giving back to the community.

"Bank of Guam is always out there to help, especially nonprofit groups. We're a proud sponsor of Karidat, which is able to meet its mission to help those in need, and I think they're doing a great job," added Tomokane, who is also a long-serving Karidat board member.

Auntie Mag's Catering

Thanksgiving Special

1 $35.00 — 2 baked chicken, stuffing, 2 lbs. fresh mashed potatoes, gravy and sponge cake

2 $45.00 — 7-10lbs picnic ham, 2 lbs. fresh mashed potatoes, gravy and sponge cake

3 $50.00 — 12-14lbs turkey, stuffing, 2 lbs. fresh mashed potatoes, gravy and sponge cake

4 $75.00 — 20-24 lbs. Smoked Ham only

Sponge Cake 9" x 13" $15.00

For orders call: Tel. 234-2722 • Tel/Fax: 235-4799
Email: amcatering@pticom.com
All orders must be placed by Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012

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‘Night with the Knights’ a resounding success

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero described the recent “Night with the Knights” fundraising event as a big success, with hundreds of alumni and supporters coming together to celebrate the school’s 60th anniversary on island.

The occasion also served to honor the institution’s founding father, Fr. Arnold Bendowski, who was represented by family members at the historic occasion.

The AlumKnight committee that planned the successful fundraising banquet recently met to thank and recognize Bank of Guam through Saipan branch general manager Marcie Tomokane for the bank’s corporate sponsorship of the event.

Deleon Guerrero said Bank of Guam has always been a generous supporter of the school, and this sponsorship is no exception.

The school also recognized AlumKnights who helped with the banquet and all its supporters and donors who contributed and continue to contribute to Mount Carmel School.

The recognition of Bendowski and his family was highlighted with the return of a special chalice that the Mount Carmel community gave him in 1965 on the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. When Bendowski retired and returned to the U.S. mainland in the 1980s, he brought the chalice with him and it remained with him until he passed away. It was Bendowski’s nephew, John Bendt, who arranged to have the chalice returned to MCS.

A few months ago, Bendt visited the campus to learn more about the impact his uncle had on the school and the island community. Upon learning of the school’s 60th anniversary celebration, he volunteered to have the chalice returned in time for the celebration. The return of the chalice was accompanied by a video message from Bendt, which was aired at the banquet.

The return of the chalice was followed by another surprise from Bendowski’s family.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that soon after the banquet, the school received a letter from Bendt and a financial contribution from 20 members of Bendowski’s family.

In his letter, Bendt wrote, “Our family applauds the high quality of education Mount Carmel School has provided since its founding, and the character and spiritual development it nurtures in its students. It is our hope that our gift will help Mount Carmel continue its mission for future generations.”

“It’s amazing that, after all these years, Father Arnold’s spirit continues to live and support the school. It was enough that he founded the school, but to have his family continue his legacy is humbling and inspiring,” said Deleon Guerrero.

60th celebration continues

The school will continue its celebration of its 60th anniversary until the end of the year. The November issue of *Beach Road Magazine* will run a cover photo and feature stories of the school’s past, present, and future. The school is also gearing up for a 60th anniversary edition of its annual Christmas program, which will feature songs and a Nativity play similar to some of the earliest Christmas programs at the school. A commemorative 60th anniversary yearbook is also being printed and will be available for purchase in time for Christmas.

“The only way the school could have survived and thrived these past 60 years is through the support of its donors and benefactors. We owe them a debt of gratitude for helping Mount Carmel School uphold a legacy of faith, excellence, and success,” he said.

Bishop emeritus looks back

In a letter written to school president Deleon Guerrero, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, recalled the founding of the school.

“Whenever we celebrate the anniversary of Mt. Carmel School, the first thing that comes to mind is always its founders: Pali’ Anrold Bendowski, OFM. Cap., the Mercedarian Sisters of Berriz and the first group of parents, including my parents and my brother, Juan. [They] were daring enough and willing to sacrifice in something that was very new at the time to the island, private school for their children,” recalled the bishop.

Others that Camacho said kept the school going through the years were the Mercy Sisters, the Notre Dame Sisters, the Dominican Sisters, Isaac Calvo, Victor Cepeda, and Margaret Dela Cruz.

To the People of the CNMI, most especially to the residents of Precinct 1,

I would like to extend our deepest and sincerest appreciation for your support and vote of confidence. I am forever humbled for the privilege to continue to serve you for a better future for us all.

Again, my family and I, we are most grateful to you all.

From our family to yours
“Happy Thanks Giving”

Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Ghilisow, Maraming Salamat-Po, Mesulang and Thank You

Congressman Antonio Pangelinan Sablan, Pat, Staff & Families

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of these business days

January 20 • February 27 • March 20
April 20 • May 23 • June 20 • July 20
August 22 • September 20 • October 23
November 21 • December 20

will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on these days. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before these dates.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **these dates**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

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To avoid disconnection you may **pay your IT&E bill at any location below:**

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Happy Thanks Giving...

November 22, 2012
6:00-10:00pm

Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet, with turkey, stuffing, ham, mashed potatoes, and much much more!

Bottomless beer and champagne

Located @ Isla Restaurant in Kanoa Resort
$26 local, $32.50 regular
$13 kids under 11
Make reservations early!
Kid’s hour between 6:30 and 7:30

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NOVEMBER 19 - 25, 2012 GROCERIES & FROZEN CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED VISA JCB MasterCard Diner's Club PACIFIC EXPRESS

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GROUND BEEF 5LB. $11.99

PORK BUTT $1.99 /LB.

MILLER SAUSAGE 5LB. $16.99

GUSTO CHOPHAM 5LB. $8.99

BAR S BACON $3.49

BAR-S HOTDOG $1.25

CABALEN SWEET LONGANISA $2.99

GOUND BEEF $21.99 10LB.

MILLERS SAUSAGE $6.99 1LB.

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SPAM $2.49 LIMIT 5 EA.

BLACK LABEL LUNCHEON LOAF $1.79 EA.

OX & PALM LUNCHEON LOAF $1.79 EA.

LIBBY'S VIENNA SAUSAGE $11.99 CS. 69¢ EA.

HORMEL CORNED BEEF HASH $2.49 EA.

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BEACH CLIFF SARDINES 99¢ EA.

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CAMPBELLS CHICKEN NOODLES 99¢ EA.

DINTY MOORE BEEF STEW 15OZ. $1.99 EA.

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SAPPORO ICHIBAN RAMEN $10.99 CASE

NONG SHIM BOWL NOODLES $8.50 CASE

KELLOGS FAMILY PACK TRI-PAK $13.99

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DRAGON VEGETABLE OIL $9.99

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MAXWELL COFFEE MIX 100 STICKS $8.99

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NESTEA 40 QRT. $8.99

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MEGA DRYPERS LARGE $10.99

COLGATE TOOTHPASTE 150ML. $2.29

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FAMILY BAG

PORK CHOP	$9.99	PORK ADOBO	$9.99
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PORK BELLY	$9.99	CHICKEN WINGS	$9.99
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BEEF RIB EYE	$15.99	FISH STICKS	$4.99

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ONIONS 69¢ PER LB.

POTATO 89¢ PER LB.

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PECHAY 75¢ PER BAG

GREEN CABBAGE 99¢ PER LB.

FUJI APPLE $1.79 PER LB.

CANTALOUPE $1.09 PER LB.

HONEYDEW $1.09 PER LB.

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ORANGE $1.09 PER LB.

BROWN XL EGGS $2.69 DOZEN

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Tree décor contest draws 13 participants

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 13 public and private elementary schools will participate in the 7th Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Contest by the nonprofit PDM Promoters, Inc.

Of the 13, four schools were able to sign up before registration closed last week, according to PDM Promoters, Inc. representative Sonia Siwa yesterday.

These four schools were Joshua Generation International School, Mount Carmel School, William S. Reyes and Garapan elementary schools.

Other participating schools are Green Meadow School, Agape Christian School, Grace Christian Academy, Golden Harvest International School, and the San Antonio, Tanapag, Gregorio T. Camacho, Dandan, and Oleai elementary schools.

Siwa said that three public elementary schools verbally confirmed their participation in the annual competition, which aims to promote the importance of recycling among elementary students.

"We gave them a call last week reminding them to fax their registration forms but they were not able to do it on the last day of registration, which was Friday," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Each participating school will decorate a 9-foot tall Christmas tree with empty soda cans, water bottles, used paper, and other recyclable materials on Nov. 30.

The entries, which will be on display along Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, will be evaluated on Dec. 1 by a panel of judges based on the use of old or used materials, relevance to the holiday theme, attractiveness, creativity and design, and durability.

The judging of entries will coincide with the kickoff of the monthlong Christmas in the Marianas activities to be hosted by the newly formed group "Friends of Paseo de Marianas," which is composed of PDM Promoters, Inc., Marianas Visitors Authority, and Pacific Development Inc.

Siwa said they are excited to see this year's entries, which they expect to be more inventive and artistic.

"Each year, we always see the hard work put in by the students, teachers, and even parents in decorating their trees so we look forward to what they have in store for us this time," she added.

Fruit, vegetable farmers reminded of deadline for non-insured disaster aid

Fruit and vegetable producers are being reminded that the deadline for the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program coverage on 2013 fruit and vegetable crops is Dec. 1, 2012.

The NAP provides coverage in the event of a Natural Disaster for all fruit and vegetable crops not covered by traditional crop insurance.

According to Tom Camacho, county executive director, a minimum administrative fee of $250 per crop, not to exceed $750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of $1,850 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties will be assessed. Administrative fee will only be accepted by personal check, bank check or money order.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to obtain NAP coverage or for additional information on the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program before the Dec. 1, 2012 deadline.

USDA, FSA is currently accepting applications through Dec. 1, 2012 (for all fruit and vegetable crops). For more information call 300-8551. ***(FSA)***

Name: Fernando N. Rivera Jr. & Carnisia O. Rivera
Address: P.O. Box 7964 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 989-3530

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: **Treivohn Blaid O. Rivera** Minor Child By: **Fernando N. Rivera Jr. & Carnisia O. Rivera** Petitioners	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0517** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 6, 2012, at 10:30am in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 7th day of November, 2012.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
ACTING CLERK OF COURT

/S/Deputy Clerk of Court

Joaquin R. Lizama & Margarita C. Lizama
P.O. Box 502855 Chalan Kanoa
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 235-5911 (h)
989-0980 (c)

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: **A.M.L. (6/30/2006)** Minor Child By: Joaquin R. Lizama and Margarita C. Lizama Petitioners	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0524 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 06, 2012, at 10:30 a.m., in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2012.

Patrick V. Diaz
Acting Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CORAZON I. BUENPACIFICO-PALANG, Petitioner, versus ALEXANDER B. PALANG, Respondent.	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0521 **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 30th day of October, 2012

/s/ **Deputy Clerk of Court**
Superior Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-008

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package and the scope of work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **November 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-008, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than December 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions regarding CUC-RFP-13-008 must be submitted in writing no later than **November 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail Address: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 • Fax: (670) 322-7812

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2012 MID-TERM ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

Public Law 12-18, the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" (the Act), requires all certified candidates to file a detailed campaign statement of account. This itemized Statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified statement by **December 26, 2012**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 19, 2001

DPH promises dialysis machines for Rota, Tinian

Notwithstanding the veto action of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on the proposed dialysis centers for Tinian and Rota, the Department of Public Health will go ahead and install dialysis machines on the two islands. This was disclosed by Tinian Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, who expressed elation over this development after a meeting with Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez. "Discussion over this issue has been surprisingly smooth. I talked with Villagomez yesterday at the office of Sen. Ricardo [Atalig] and he offered to go down to Tinian, perhaps as early as next week, to begin the dialysis projects for Tinian and Rota," said Adriano.

Walk raises $400 for MVA

Japan-Saipan Travel Association raised more than $400 from over 135 participants to Saturday's Gambaro Walkathon, in support of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Emergency Recovery Plan for the CNMI. Saipan Mayor Jose Sablan led participants from JASTA, the MVA, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Pacific Development Inc., and representatives from other tourism-related companies to the 1.5-mile Goodluck Walk that started at 6am. The walk started at the Civic Center Beach Park to the Thirteen Fishermen's Memorial, then back to the Minachom Atdao. A minimum donation of $1 was collected from each participant.

Nov. 19, 2002

Govt owes CHC manpower agencies more than $500K

The CNMI government has been delayed for almost three months now in paying its manpower agencies that supply nursing staff at the Commonwealth Health Center, prompting at least one of the companies to begin putting its staff on vacation. Juan T. Guerrero, president of Paras Enterprises, the longest serving staffing agency for the CHC, confirmed in an interview yesterday that the government owes his company some $400,000 or $500,000 to include all other outstanding fees with other government offices. "Well, I won't hide that they owe me money, plenty of money. This week, we had a payroll, so that makes it five payroll cycles. I haven't received payment from them," Guerrero said when asked about the issue.

NMI participates in FairTax discussion

Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero recently participated in the national conversation relating to the seven-year effort by U.S. mainland advocates to push for legislation that is touted to change the way America is currently taxed. Guerrero attended a four-day convention on the FairTax act in Atlanta Georgia-the nationwide discussion on U.S. House Bill 2525-which is a repealer of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. According to FairTax advocates, HB 2525-now before the U.S. Congress-is proposed to replace the way U.S. taxpayers are being taxed, "based on annual income-with a tax on goods and services."

Nov. 19, 2003

Governor happy with Brown's confirmation

Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday expressed gratitude over the Senate's confirmation of Pamela Brown as Attorney General during a legislative session held Monday on Rota. Sen. Paul Manglona, who strongly asserted his claim over the Senate presidency, called for the session in his home island after his bloc regained majority number at the upper house. "I want to thank the Senate for confirming her," Babauta said. "[We] need continuity for a permanent AG. Her [Brown's] confirmation achieves that." Babauta also thanked Clyde Lemons, Jr., who has assumed the AG position in acting capacity since Ramona Manglona vacated the seat when she became Superior Court judge. The governor said Lemons, who returns to his position as Deputy AG, performed "an excellent role as acting AG."

98 percent in PSS travel advances collected

Public School System finance director Richard Waldo said his office has made a significant improvement in collecting travel advances especially from PSS personnel. He admitted though that liquidation of travel advances from non-PSS staff-Board of Education members and students-is a "little more challenging." In his report to the BOE yesterday, Waldo said that his office collected 98 percent of the total advances from PSS personnel. "We're doing extremely well in collecting outstanding accounts from our personnel."

Korean Culture Week kicks off today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Korean Culture Week opens today at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, and organizers guarantee a bigger celebration after getting the support of a South Korean government agency.

Daniel Huh, president of the Korean Cultural Center on Saipan, said the Academy of Korean Studies has agreed to host the weeklong event, which aims to raise awareness and understanding of the Korean culture.

The academy is a research and educational institute established in June 1978 by the Ministry of Education & Science Technology of South Korea with the purpose of establishing profound research on Korean culture.

Korean Culture Week, Huh said, will feature several events that would help the AKS project called "Understanding Korea," as well as promote friendship between Korea and the Northern Marianas.

Spectators will enjoy the exhibit on Nov. 19, 20, 23, and 24 from 5pm to 8pm, which will introduce materials about the Korean culture such as books, movie posters, and information that will be shown on TV screens.

The exhibit will be highlighted by costumes, including those of the Korean king and queen, which the audiences can try on for a photo opportunity.

Traditional Korean food such as tteok or Korean rice cake and Korean traditional soft drinks would also be served.

There will be an "About Korea" trivia quiz and the Korean Song Contest on Nov. 23 and 24 from 7pm to 9pm.

There will be cash prizes and gifts to the winners of both competitions, which are open to the public, including non-Koreans.

"Everyone is welcome," Huh told *Saipan Tribune*. "We invite everyone to know more about the Korean culture."

Huh said the event is made possible by the four volunteer workers and other assistants at the Korean Cultural Center, which was established in 2009. The center provides Korean culture-related services in the CNMI, particularly language education.

For more information about the event, call 285-2221, 285-2121, 256-2221 or email kcc-marianas@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Felix Camacho and Remy Buniag try on the Korean King and Queen costumes which will be on display at the Korean Culture Week event to be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe beginning today.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV- 022

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Leak Detection and Repairs for Garapan Tourist Center in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior and the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA and EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Contractor shall identify, report, and repairs leaks in the water distribution system, to include but not limited to mainline leaks, residential meter leaks, fire hydrants, mainline valve leaks, and other appurtenant parts of the distribution system. Contractor shall also report and repair or replace inoperable fire hydrant and valves. Contractor shall identify the models, make and part number or identification of any existing meters, hydrants or valves, which were repaired.
- Installation of valves, air relief valves, blow-off valves, fire hydrants and fittings.
- Contractor will, for each identified leak, submit a repair schedule and cost estimate for the repair including restoration of the repair sites (cushioning, backfilling/compaction and asphalting). Pavement restoration, predominantly along the road traffic, shall be expeditiously restored initially using lean concrete as basecourse. Compaction test must be submitted prior to paving.
- Contractor shall identify, report, and resolve areas of potential backflow within the water distribution system. Contractor, upon notification from WTF as forwarded from CUC, shall investigate complaints of low water pressure in the distribution system. This may indicate a substantial leak has occurred.
- Contractor will trace unrecorded service lines to their point of origin.
- Contractor shall identify, report, cut and cap abandoned lines and laterals serving vacant buildings or other facilities.
- Contractor shall provide a detailed daily report to WTF and CUC to include findings, cause of leak, steps taken to resolve the problem, materials used and type of testing performed.
- Contractor shall check all water customer service and shall report to WTF and CUC overflowing cisterns/tanks for CUC-Water Division enforcement.
- Contractor shall isolate the line subjected for repairs and shall take various pressure readings at different times before and after the repair. Contractor shall submit a pressure reading logs. Contractor shall ensure that all existing customers affected by line isolation are reconnected to the water system.
- Asphalt Road restoration.
- Repairs procedures shall be in compliance with the requirements of the CUC Water Division, DEQ, AWWA Standards, OSHA regulations and USDOT FHWA standards.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **November 5, 2012** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00** a.m., on **November 16, 2012**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on **November 15, 2012**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-022**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **December 4, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **December 4, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 4, 2012**, and must be received no later than **December 14, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **December 14, 2012**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **December 4, 2012**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-GOV-021
LANDFILL EQUIPMENT

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals according to the requirements of N.M.I.A.C. § 70-30.3-210 from qualified vendors to provide equipment for use at landfills on the Island of Tinian and Island of Rota. Proposal is to include costs associated with: equipment; training; extended warranty; delivery; maintenance; and training as identified in specifications. Equipment proposed must be similar to landfill equipment identified in the scope of work and be of a type commonly used in landfill operations in the United States. The specific pieces of equipment sought are the following:

1. Two tracked bulldozers;
2. Two backhoe loaders; and
3. Two hydraulic excavators.

Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:

50 points – price
50 points – experience of equipment in similar operations in United States locations and compliance with preferred model specification

All proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination as identified in NMIAC § 70-30.3-245 ("Responsibility Determination") which will evaluate whether the vendor has experience and resources for the required financing, warranty, and maintenance services. Proposals from parties who fail to meet the requirements of the Responsibility Determination will not be considered. Award shall be made to the responsible offer or whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Procurement & Supply. Proposal packets will be available on November 7, 2012 (ChST) at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). Proposals must pay particular attention to the preferred identified equipment specification and use this as a guide in submission of proposals. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 23, 2012 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked RFP13-GOV-021 Landfill Equipment Proposal on the forms provided and include an original and four copies and must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 6, 2012 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-004

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-004
Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The work consists of installation of new waterlines, cut and cap and tapping to existing waterlines on Gloria Drive, Ocean View Drive, Isla Drive and Puetto St. Installation of new PRVs, gate valves, and construction of new booster pump station. The work is also inclusive of installation of new water lateral lines, reconnection of all existing water meters, asphalt paving restoration, etc. The work shall be done without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bidding Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 30, 2012 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-13-004, Navy Hill Waterline and Pressure Improvement Project** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 20, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price and Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 7, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – christie.sablan@cucgov.org..

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Don't play chicken with the cliff

Congress and the president have got to stop playing chicken as the country approaches the edge.

Some $600 billion in automatic, across-the-board spending cuts and tax hikes known as the fiscal cliff go into effect Jan. 1—unless leaders in Washington come up with a budget deal involving more selective, less harmful cuts and hikes. These should be real fixes, not patches that just push the problems a few months out and continue the uncertainty surrounding the nation's fiscal situation.

Aetna CEO Mark Bertolini added his voice this week to growing clamor to get it done. On CNBC's Squawk Box, he accurately described the fiscal cliff as a "financial superstorm" that could decimate the economy. Certainly that's true for Connecticut: The cliff would cut defense spending, on which this state depends, by $55 billion. Bertolini said Aetna, the giant insurer based in Hartford, is already preparing for layoffs.

Washington's dallying is undermining confidence in its ability to solve any problem. It's rattling the markets and threatening to throw the U.S. back into recession and an estimated 3 million-plus people out of jobs.

It would be irresponsible to miss the Jan. 1 deadline and let the mayhem begin. Some Democrats like the idea, saying Republicans would be blamed for refusing to raise taxes on the rich, as President Obama proposes. To do nothing would mean mass layoffs, terrified markets, unthinking cuts in essential programs. And surely Democrats would also be blamed for the bloodletting that would follow.

Obviously both parties will have to share in the sacrifice—some tax hikes, some spending cuts. Get going. This is not Greece.

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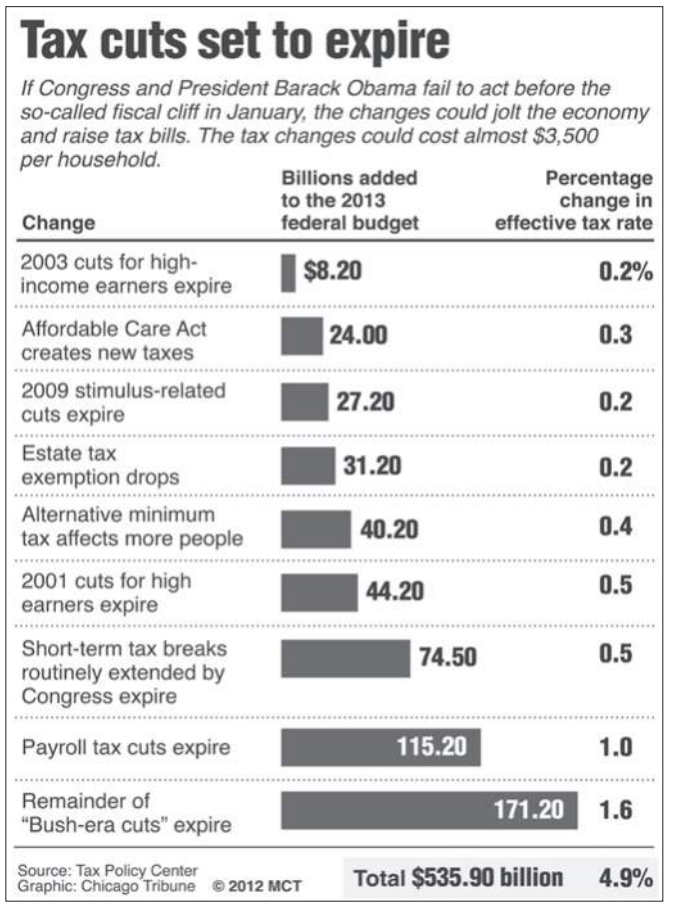
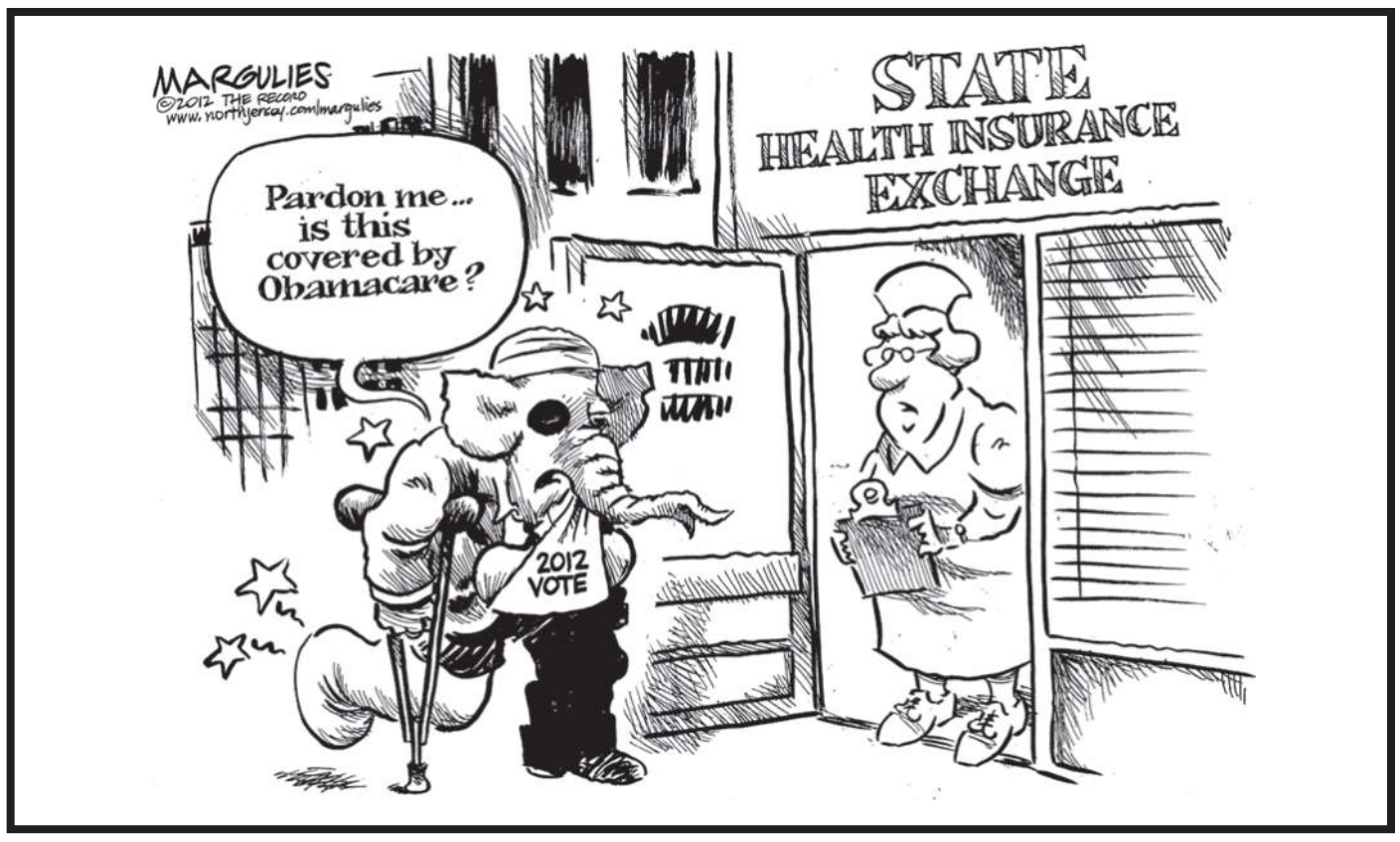
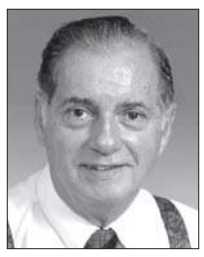




Why we can develop a prosperous economy

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Last week I discussed several ways we can develop a prosperous economy if we are willing to work at improving our tourist industry and by cultivating our farmlands and by harvesting our oceans. We will never be a manufacturing country nor even do assembly work on a major scale. We are a rural community and must cultivate and build on that image.

In tourism we cannot compete with Guam who has many more attractions. But we can show our tourists what a rural community feels like. For example, how many tourists from large cities ever see cows, pigs, chickens, and goats? How may of them ever get to stroll through the countryside and enjoy the joy and beauty of nature? Do we offer any tours to farms? Why not? We have all of these and should sell them to our tourists. Guam doesn't do any of this.

In addition to their larger population Guam has large military bases to supplement their economy. So how do we go about developing a prosperous economy? We export and fill their needs. They will not have to import from a long distance as from America or from Korea. We are neighbors and only less than an hour away. Our fruits and produce are fresher. Add to our exports value added products. Yes, there is a large market waiting just minutes away.

Picture this scenario: farmers and others who own farmlands begin to till the soil and begin growing all sorts of fruits and vegetables. We muster up our children and relatives and motivate them to help with the farming. Also fishermen begin to seriously harvest our surrounding ocean. Some of us who are more into development begin to take these locally grown crops, fruits and fish and begin to develop value added products. Imagine this happening on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, hundreds of local citizens working and producing local products. Now what do we do with all these goods? We ship them to Guam! And import dollars!

Some of our older citizens remember when the military planes came to our islands from Guam and bought thousands of pounds of our fresh vegetables and fruit. The planes stopped coming a long time ago and so did our desire to plant. But the need for our products is just as great as before. Now we have to solve the problem of transportation to Guam from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for these thousands of pounds of our fresh goods.

Recently a new airline started on Saipan for transporting cargo to Guam from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It is called Arctic Circle Air and its purpose is to build a cargo bridge between the islands. It is prepared to carry any kind of goods, not just fruits and vegetables. The airline also uses the name of Marianas Harvest, hoping to convey the feeling of goods produced in all of the islands.

One of the main functions of Marianas Produce is to motivate farmers to grow fruits and vegetables for export to Guam. To date it has made several shipments with favorable responses. However, sad to say, some farmers are slow to react, but hopefully they will eventually. In addition to shipping produce fresh Marianas sweet shrimp, fresh—not frozen—pork is being targeted for export also.

I repeat that we are not poor but are rich because of the fertile soil and bountiful ocean. We must cultivate them. The continuing free handouts we keep receiving from the federal government keeps stealing our dignity and pride. We become hungry beggars unwilling to work. Let's stop it!

I could go on and on raving of the potentials we have to create a prosperous community. There is only one ingredient lacking—the will to succeed. Our fathers had it. I know my father and mother worked hard all their lives. We were not rich but my parents earned every cent that came into our house. We never were hungry. And there were no food stamps. We worked or we didn't eat.

Look at the number of families here receiving food stamps! Look at the number of children going to school with little or no breakfast! Look at the number of people being fed by the Salvation Army. Why? Why are these things happening on our beautiful islands when they do not have to happen? Where is our pride? We are not poor but a bit on the lazy side.

Yes, I am a fanatic about what we have done to ourselves. We are on a path of self-destruction. But there is a rainbow over our heads. Let's lift our eyes and see it. But we must first bend down to plow our fields and fish our ocean. We truly have acres of diamonds under our feet.

To learn more how the cargo air bridge can help us succeed, write to Tony Pellegrino at tonypell@pticom.com or call 287-8310. To ship any cargo on the Arctic Circle Air airline, please call Paul Zak at 287-4569 or the company at the airport by calling 670-288-8877. It stands ready to assist.

This is a community project in which all of us must participate in or we all lose. We are constantly inviting foreign investors. But do we own any shares of what they finally build? However all of us are invited to invest in Arctic Circle Air and become part-owner of the entire operation. Call for more information.

Become a part of the rebuilding of our prosperity. The more products we export, the more money we import. Which will it be? Do we work and rebuild our economy or do we dig ourselves deeper into poverty? It is our decision!

Do we ever ask ourselves why our nonresident employees work so hard and are so anxious to remain here? Is it because they appreciate the American Dream of hard work and believe that it leads to material rewards better than most of us who are citizens? I often hear about the amazing farming abilities of the local Chinese farmers on our islands. Recently I read an article about farming in Hawaii and guess who were the featured outstanding farmers? Non-American farmers! What does this say about our attitude toward helping ourselves? Farming is a proud profession. Without farmers, what would we eat?

Thomas Jefferson wrote: "I'm a great believer of luck and I find the harder I work the more of it I have." And Henry Ford added: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." My favorite is: "TEAM means To-

See WHY on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Suenu!' Señat Komunida

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

I "suenu" na palabran Chamorro un' huhuñgog ginen i hegsu 'sino sabana kulan notisia para i tautau siha gi señgsoñg na guaha mamamaila'.

Giya Anatahan, Pagan, Alamagan yan Agrighan 'nai sessu mana' setbe este na palabra entre chagchag oga'an 'sino lemlim tautau 'an guaha mali'e' batku gi puntan tasi.

Ha prepara siha i tautau tinala' sine'su' para umamueba papa' gi kantun tasi. Antes de 'las dies humalom un' boten dikiki ya sige malofan i sine'su' para i batku.

'An monhayan, man-hanau i famalao'an ya man-mamahan fektus, chupa yan otru siha nesessidat gi hilu' batku ginen apas sine'su'. Kantida yan nahoñg mafafahan para esta i biradan i batku kase tres mesis dispues.

I suenu ni huna' o'oppan pot mamamaila' na didog chinatsaga ginen diskuidun este na administrasion. Prepara hamyu sa' esta ha tutuhongue' este na kastigu.

■■■■

Maisa na bisita

Gi chagchag oga'an hu bisita un' kanton tasi pot para bai' sede ma'asen na guinaifen mañglu' gi tatautau-hu. Homlu' na eksisiu ya gi mismu tiempu ha sedeyu' bumisita 'nos kuantos asuntu siha, silensiu.

I pañgpañg mandikiki' na napu siha esta monhayan mapacha otru kantun unai gi chagu'. Mafattu kuestion manu na tanu' ha bisita antes de una' fotgun adeñghu. Kau ha kikilili' halom sagun atulai, tiau, faya 'sino otru guihan sanhalom?

Dididi' guaifon na oga'an mientras i pajaru matutuhon mañgarera huyuñg gi chagu' yan taduñg na tasi. Gaige a'paka' na mapagahes gi un' banda. Ma'lag i atdau na haane.

Mattu kuestion lokue' haf' mohon usun ayu na kanton unai gi antigu na tiempu? Plaset maplantan chininchulun guihan, fina' guput komunida, pat lugat preparasion peska yan kasadules gi chagu' na tanu'? Puru pot antigu humatme hinasoghu na oga'an.

Gi bandan espirituat, un' fehman na tinayuyot para i man-mofona ni kumayun kareran i manatatte siha na hinerasion. Puede lokue' ha bendise hit i Saina ya u felis todu pinetsige pot famaguonta yan man-natibu.

Nina'en chenchule'

Gi finagpu' lisayon linahyan, mababa ni familia i kahon nina'en tautau siha salape'. Masoda un' sobre ni mañañahguan tres pesus.

I man-na'e sumen poble. Kase hagas hana' sahñge ayu na tres pesus para 'an guaha chinatsaga gi familia. Ha lagnos ya ha pega gi kahon kontribusion.

Hana' fan man-hahassu hit haf' tinateña ayu na kontribusion. Yangin gai guinaha, pues siempre ilegta pot sosobla na man-na'e. Lau sumen poble. Estague' i sumen ma'gas na linagnos sa' maseha makat ha mattitgue' pot minagof ginen i korasoña.

■■■■

Mayogua sasalaguan dos gobietnon Marianas. I unu ni esta para umafondu sa' esta gaige i guafe gi agaga'ña ha esalalague i otru haf' taimanu na lamita ha' i guafe giya guiya. Ineppe, "Famatkilu sa' pa'gu mamatai otru gobietnota ya gaige guine papa' na ha o'ombu'yu"'.

Dispues mahuñgog 'nos kuantos membron lehislatura mafafaisen si Lusifet kau u fan dinispensa yangin ma-adapta un' resulasion para uma-impeach si San Pedro. De dios ya para manu hamyu dispues? A` Saina!

■■■■

Ha chule' i amku' i "gue'ha" ya sige ha bohaugue'. Magahet na katma yan ma'lag i semnag. I finattun lahiña ginen i lanchu, ha faisen kuantu na "iñgglera" ha tanume gihas kamute. Ineppe na kuatro. Gue'ha tinifog hagun ag'gag ni ma-u'usa para bohau. Pagu ingglera guiya ha' yan lucha.

■■■■

'Nai ha hassu umakamu' i amiguhu Magoo, ha katsague' mamaisen saina sa esta listugue' gumai familia. Gi inasoda' yan mañainan i palao'an, maplasu dos años ya dispues 'nai para umabisita ta'lu i finaiseseña. Hu faisen haf' masusede, mamaisen, "Haf' plasu?" Kanaha' malagnos gi sikoshu na guiya ennau 'nai taya' inañgoku gi lahe. De dios mihu!

■■■■

Dispues de mahafot un' amiguhu, sige masañgan grasiaña siha 'nai lalala'. Ilegña un' atuñgo'ña, "Hekkua haf' na maseha haf' ha sañgan pot guaka ya matai ha' papa' yan guaka gi sikosña". Ilegña i otru, "Nañgga sa' ha chule' i botihu pot tulaikan guaka ya esta pa'gu ti mafattu i boti". Ineppe ni otru, "Lapekaras, pues nihe ya un' chule' sa' hagas ha pega gi lanchu". De dios mihu!

Gi taftaf oga'an, sige i dos luchan para iya siha ginen Magpi'. 'Nai mattu gi menan gima' Yuus, guminen i tata i draiba. Finaisen ni gachoñgña haf" ha keke chogue. Ilegña, "Ahe, man-gagauyu asi'i gi Saina". Finaisen ensegidas, "Ya man-gagau hau asi'i pot este tatte i sinaketa guaka?" A` Saina!

Comments on proposed fat tax

By DIANNE C. ESPLIN, RD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I understand the terrible issues facing the Commonwealth Health Corp. in funding and accreditation, and I applaud the Legislature's efforts to address the need for CNMI to make healthier choices, but I think House Bill 17-320, The Health Care Impact Tax Act, is not well thought out and I would like to respectfully point out several of my concerns:

1. The list of foods in House Bill 17-320 to be taxed includes foods that are healthy and necessary to some people.

Item 1. "Animal & Vegetable Fats." To tax animal fats would include taxing every meat product brought into the CNMI, including chicken leg quarters and ribs, as all meats contain fat. This also would tax imported fish, fresh or canned, a source of Omega 3 fatty acids, which are actually necessary for normal brain development in children and normal brain function in adults. If families who are not used to a vegetarian diet eliminate meat and fish to reduce family food costs, they risk protein deficiency, which can result in developmental delays and growth retardation for their children. Milk contains animal fat as well. Will we be taxing whole milk as well as reduced fat, low fat, and skim milk? Milk is one of the few sources of dietary calcium we need for strong bones.

Item 6. "Canned and Prepared Meats." Canned meats are often the only meat option for some families who do not have access to refrigeration, and we have many families who cannot afford the power or equipment costs of refrigeration. Healthy canned meats are available, such as tuna, salmon, sardines, canned chicken, etc. The healthy choice is often actually cheaper per ounce of protein than the less healthy choices of canned luncheon meats and canned corned beef.

Item 9. "Chocolate & other food products containing chocolate." There are pediatric enteral formulas, such as Pediasure and Bright Beginnings, that contain chocolate. Currently, Vanilla Pediasure is more expensive than the Chocolate Pediasure at the distributors. Although this change could potentially increase CHC's dietary costs, please be aware that not all tube-fed children are hospitalized. PSS Food and Nutrition Services serves quite a few tube-fed PSS students. With this tax on products containing chocolate, this lower price option for caretakers of children requiring tube feeding at home would disappear.

Item 12. "Cocoa butter, fat, and oil." Cocoa butter is often used in cosmetics and skin care. Would this tax affect those cocoa butter products that are not intended for consumption?

Item 20. "Oil Salad and Cooking." There are some vegetable fats that have been shown to reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases. Olive oil and canola oil contain mono and poly-unsaturated fats that have been shown to reduce the risks of heart disease when they replace foods containing saturated fat. Although overused, fats still remain essential to the diet. Taxing all fats may cause an increase in the consumption of carbohydrates, especially refined carbohydrates, which is a concern for a population such as ours with such rampant diabetes.

Item 22. "Peanut Butter and Paste." Peanut butter is a vegetarian protein source that is a rich source of calories that is exceptionally helpful for children who are underweight. The WIC program, a nutrition program funded by the USDA Food and Nutrition Services, distributes peanut butter to its participants as a healthy food. Peanut oil contains a large portion of mono and poly-unsaturated fats, which are the heart-healthy fats. Taxing peanut butter makes it harder for families facing food insecurity and hunger to provide healthy calorie-dense foods to their underweight children. This also will put an unnecessary burden on the WIC program, which serves low income families, and may necessitate a reduction in services based on their increased food costs.

2. A tax on food is hardest on the poor. The CNMI's poverty level is extremely high. We have a high incidence of food insecurity and hunger, especially among those families who cannot receive food stamp benefits. Here in the CNMI, we've had several recent occasions where parents try to take uneaten food off of student trays to take home for family to prevent it from going to the "pig food" bin, and for that reason, some schools have had to adopt policies of no parents in the cafeteria. So, in my opinion, to put a tax on food where the people are already experiencing hunger, poverty, and food insecurity is downright mean.

3. It is vague and unclear how foods containing "animal or vegetable fat" will be determined. Will all animal products containing fat now be taxed equally? For example, will pork belly and turkey tail be taxed the same as boneless skinless chicken breast and tilapia? Will whole fat milk be taxed the same as 1 percent milk? All of these foods contain animal fats, although they vary a great deal in their percentage of fat content.

4. The bill makes no provision for the funding of its enforcement. Will the Division of Customs be solely responsible for the additional costs and administration of this tax? Is this an unfunded mandate? Has the Legislature conferred with the Division of Customs to determine what sort of additional costs in manpower, training, or administration this change would cause?

5. The rule making authority for this law lies with an agency without expertise in food, nutrition, and health. The Department of Finance is well equipped to handle things financial, but do they have the expertise to determine which foods contain fat if there are no labels? For example, avocados are usually imported without a label, but avocados are high in fat.

I have no qualms about taxing non-food items that are harming the health of CNMI residents, such as alcohol, tobacco, and betel nut but, as a nutrition professional, I respectfully oppose House Bill 17-320 as it is written.

Dianne C. Esplin, RD holds a bachelor's degree in Foods and Nutrition (Medical Dietetics) from Brigham Young University, is a Registered Dietitian, (licensed as a dietitian by the Idaho Board of Medicine), and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Letter to the Editor

Please stop!

Your recent article ranking members of the 17th Legislature by the number of bills they passed was abysmal. Your report creates the impression that success in the Legislature is measured by the amount of street names changed, instead of balancing the budget, creating policies that support the growth of jobs in the private sector, or stopping bad laws from passing. Your newspaper does this every year. Could you please stop?

Angelo Villagomez
Washington, D.C.

WHY

From Page 10

gether Everyone Achieves More."

Instead of being united islands, we have become divided. A house divided against itself will surely fall. It is not too late to repair the damage we have done to ourselves. I have a plea to our legislators. To all the returning and especially new legislators: Please go through your districts and motivate our people to begin repairing our community. Encourage us to plant our fields and fish the ocean both for ourselves and for export. We need your encouragement. In conclusion, there is no one who can or will help us but ourselves!

We need to export more than we import and now we have the opportunity. We must import dollars and export products grown and made by us. A cargo bridge has been built to transport all that we can produce to our great market, Guam! Yeah, let's do it! What are we waiting for?

And above all keep the smile on our faces. A smile expresses that all will be well. Have a great week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

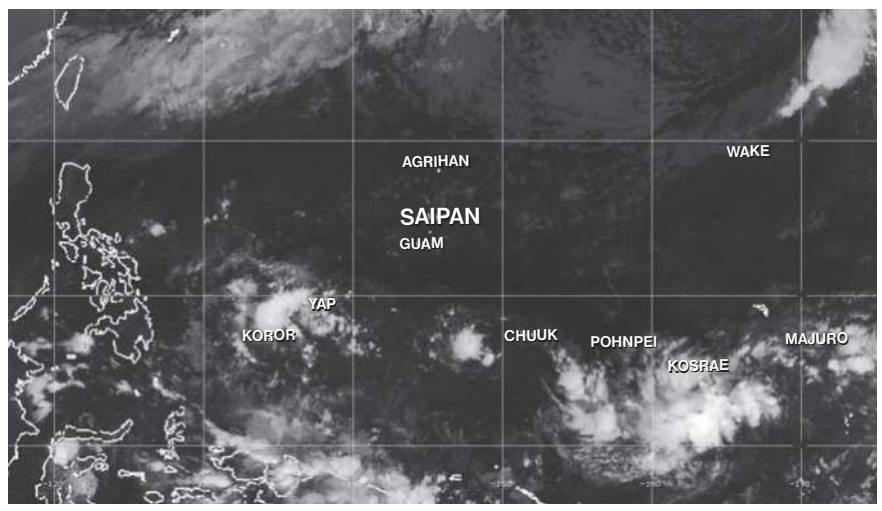
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲65	▼56
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼28
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲76	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲51	▼46
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼40
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼39
Rome	Showers	▲62	▼53
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼48
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼31
Tokyo	Sunny	▲59	▼44
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼46

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N170E to 18N160E then continues as a shear line passing through the Marianas to beyond 130E at 14N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along the cold front between 25N and 23N from 168E to 172E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 180 miles northwest of this boundary southwest of 22N167E. A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from 3N130E through a weak circulation centered southeast of Koror near 2N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Yap and Koror between 11N and 5N from 131E to 142E. Similar weather is found well south of Yap south of a line from 1N133E to 3N143E. A weak circulation centered west of Chuuk near 7N149E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 9N and 5N from 146E to 151E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from a weak circulation centered southwest of Kosrae near 1N160E to 5N172E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are located south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between 5N and the equator from 156E to 168E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms mainly south of Majuro between 8N and 4N from 170E to 174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
12:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
1:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:13 AM	11:09 PM
Tuesday	11:59 AM	
Wednesday	12:42 PM	12:04 AM
Thursday	1:22 PM	12:56 AM
Friday	2:01 PM	1:46 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 15, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**			
MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5	MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				**PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
UZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				**VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN**			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week	VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				UA702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Inaugural Flight from Beijing

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Visitors Authority officials led by Bruce Bateman and Century Tours vice president for destination management Alexander R.J. Stutely pose for a group photo with media and travel partners from Beijing here for a familiarization tour.

The sights and sounds of traditional Marianas dances welcome the passengers of a maiden China Eastern Airlines charter flight from Beijing as they made their way to the baggage claim and customs area early Friday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Chinese couple is greeted with shell leis and a warm Hafa Adai welcome for being among the 295 passengers of a maiden China Eastern Airlines charter flight from Beijing early Friday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A media/travel partner from Beijing flashes a peace sign moments after receiving a warm welcome from local tourism representatives at the airport on Friday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Agatha Ketebengang, a marketing assistant at the Marianas Visitors Authority, prepares the shell leis to be given to the 295 passengers as well as pilot and crew of China Eastern Airlines' maiden charter flight from Beijing at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Friday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, left, is greeted by Marianas Visitors Authority marketing assistant Agatha Ketebengang, right, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Friday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman, left, joins China Eastern Airline captain Ji Kaoshang, second from right, and two other pilots for a group photo.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CASH FOR COLLEGE NMC

Northern Marianas College student volunteers assists students during the recent NMC Cash for College workshop. Close to 500 individuals attended the workshop where they received assistance in applying for scholarships and grants. The NMC Cash for College workshop was hosted in collaboration with the College Access Challenge Grant program to help students learn about and apply for available financial aid opportunities for college from program representatives, as well as financial aid experts.

Proposed pesticide regulations available for comment

The Division of Environmental Quality is proposing to promulgate its CNMI Pesticide Management Regulations in the December or January publication of the *Commonwealth Registrar.*

"The new regulations will supersede the Pesticide Management Regulations, which were adopted in 1994 and are now obsolete," according to Pesticide and Storage Tank branch manager Reina Camacho. According to Camacho, the proposed regulation further defines and expands the prohibited acts in accordance with federal law, Federal Insecticide Fungicide, Rodenticide Act, or FIFRA. The proposed regulation shall reduce the fee associated with obtaining pesticide applicator certification and clarifies the permit requirements and conditions relating to use of pesticides, including storage and transportation.

Camacho adds that importation of pesticide and pesticide devices are redefined and shall apply to any 1) any restricted use pesticide from any country into the CNMI; (2) any pesticide or pesticide device manufactured in or shipped by or through a foreign country; any termiticide, including those used for crack, crevice, and spot treatment; (3) any pesticide used to control pests on fruit and/or vegetable crops or other agricultural products; and (4) pesticides used for fumigation, hospital grade disinfection and commercial purposes .

"The reason for the new regulation is to ensure the proper management of pesticide use, sale, and other requirements to meet federal standards and practices applicable to the Islands," said Camacho.

The regulations apply to all persons that import, sale or distribute, use, handle and or apply pesticides.

One may view the proposed Pesticide Management Regulations online at http://deq.gov.mp/artdoc/Sec7art221ID776.pdf.

DEQ has scheduled the following stakeholder sessions to answer any questions about the proposed regulations:

- Dec. 4: DEQ Saipan Office, 2nd Floor, 5pm to 7pm
- Dec. 5: DEQ Tinian Office, 3pm to 5pm
- Dec. 6: DEQ Saipan Office, 12pm to 1pm
- Dec. 11: DEQ Saipan Office, 2nd Floor, 5pm to 7pm
- Dec. 13: DEQ Saipan Office, 12pm to 1pm

The stakeholder meeting for Rota shall be on Dec 19, 20, or 21.

Visit www.deq.gov.mp for an updated schedule or to send your written comments or request additional information via email storagetankspesticides@deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER

High school diploma, minimum
5 years prior hotel experience.
Keep premises clean and orderly
condition. Use of power
equipment/hand tools, transport
linens, supplies, and making up beds
and perform other duties described
as a cleaner. Police clearance required.
$ 5.55/hr. Interested applicants
can apply at the
Aquarius Beach Tower,
110 Beach Road.
Applications must be submitted
by November 23rd.

No phone calls please.

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.

Immediate position available for

LIVE-IN CAREGIVER FOR THE U.S.

- Round trip airfare with one year contract
- Health care experience preferred but not required
- Must be able to prepare food items
- Salary negotiable based on experience

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- U.S. citizen or green card
- Driver's license
- Ability to speak English
- Police Clearance
- References

Drop off your resume at the
Triple J Corporate Office
Ground Floor, Silver Hotel, Brigida St., Chalan Kanoa
May submit resume online at
corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com
We accept applications up to September 10, 2011

NO PHONE CALL PLEASE

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Century Tours, Saipan

Opening Date: **November 19, 2012** Position: **Operations Clerk (9)**
Closing Date: **November 23, 2012** Salary: **$5.55 - $6.60 per hour**

Duties: Performs all and/or any combination of following duties requiring knowledge of systems or procedures: operates office machines, such as desktop computers, laptops, typewriter, adding, calculating, and duplicating machines; enters room bookings and room report for bookings into computer and forwards the information to Shanghai office via email and telephone; confirms and reconfirms hotel bookings with Shanghai office; inform Tour Guides of guests bus number assignments; prepare correspondence, bills, statements, receipts, or other documents, copying information from one record to another; photocopies documents, using photocopier; answers correspondence and emails, and prepares mail and email to Shanghai office; obtains travel and hotel accommodations for guests; prepares tour schedules and itineraries, and compiles reports of transactions; obtains confirmation of travel and lodging space and rate information; prepares guests tour booklet, copy of tour itinerary, written lodging confirmations and tour suggestions. answers guests and Shanghai office inquiries concerning tour routes, sightseeing schedules, fares and fees, and accommodations; prepare activity forms for Tour Guides; prepare key envelopes for incoming guests; sorts and files records; copies data and compiles records and reports; finalize guests name list to hotels; make bus reservations; Answers telephone, conveys messages, and runs errands; reply to Shanghai office emails, and perform other related duties assigned or as required.

Position Requirements: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience in tour operation, sales or service related experience; must be able to speak, read, and understand Mandarin; excellent communication, organizational, and sales skills preferred; must be willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the Front Office of Century Tours, located at the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-036 **Opening Date:** Thursday, November 1, 2012
Closing Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Electric Power Systems, or his/her designee - namely the Power Manager (Transmission and Distribution). Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement and bid documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans, data collection and specifications. Performs load flow and protection studies and analysis. Troubleshoot and analyze system and equipment faults and determine root causes. Carry out planning, design, construction ,management, operation and maintenance of transmission and distribution system in a saline environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements for renewable energy PPAs and Interconnection Agreements . Reviews work performed by engineering technicians and engineers. Coordinates and meets with other divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Power Division (Transmission and Distribution) , SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $60,000.00 to $73,195.00 per year; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and four years of directly related experience in an electrical utility. A Master's Degree in Engineering is preferred. Must be a licensed professional engineer from a U.S. state or territory. An engineer with an active NCEES Record is preferred. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using load flow and related software applications; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Geotesting, Inc. has openings for:

One (1) Assistant Materials Supervisor
Minimum qualifications: Associates degree in Engineering Technology (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent) and two years experience in materials testing.
Duties: Performs and supervises laboratory and field testing of construction materials such as soils, aggregates, concrete and other related materials. Performs and supervises tests for design mix for concrete and related materials. Reviews and prepares reports of laboratory and field test data of soils, aggregates, concrete and related mixtures. Performs and supervises field samplings of soils, concrete, aggregates and related materials.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Qualifications: Associates degree in Accounting (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent), two years experience as bookkeeper or accountant, and working knowledge of QuickBooks software.
Duties: Records company's business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies, and reconciles accounts payable, accounts receivable, expenses, payroll, and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipts tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transactions prior to settlement. Prepares cash reconciliation, balances check books, and makes bank deposits.

One (1) Heavy Equipment Mechanic
Qualifications: Three years experience as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic performing the job duties below.
Duties: Analyzes malfunctions and repairs, rebuilds and maintains heavy construction and heavy drilling equipment, including soil boring drill rigs with capacity to drill to 200 feet deep, and deep water supply wells to 600 feet deep; large backhoes, flatbed trucks, high capacity compressors, submersible deep water well pumps, grouting machines, large generators, and pneumatic tools. Inspects equipment to diagnose defects; dismantles and reassembles equipment, using hoists and hand tools; examines parts for damage or excessive wear using micrometers and gauges; replaces defective engines and subassemblies; and tests overhauled equipment to insure operating efficiency. May direct workers engaged in cleaning parts and assisting with assembly and disassembly of equipment.

If interested, send resume to Geotesting, Inc. by email to geotesting@geoguam.com or by fax at 670-235-5000. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one week of acceptance to hire.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
Investing for the Future Financial Security of our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITIONS: **JVA 13-002 (Benefits Technician I) – Pay Level: 18**
JVA 13-003 (Internal Auditor) – Pay Level: 32
LOCATION: **SAIPAN**
OPENING DATE: **Immediately**
CLOSING DATE: **November 23, 2012**

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking a professional and motivated individual to work in a challenging environment for the Fund. Benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidate and in compliance with CNMI laws.

Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance and others** as outlined in the JVA package. The complete package is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan, by e-mail through the Fund Administrator; or the Fund's website at www.nmiretirement.com. **Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA 13-002 or JVA 13-003 Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope**.

Lillian M. Pangelinan, Acting Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

NMC Intersession Term admission application deadline

The Northern Marianas College will be offering academic courses during the Intersession Term in which courses will meet for approximately three weeks from Dec. 19, 2012, to Jan. 9, 2013.

The purpose of the Intersession Term is to help students achieve their educational goals; it is ideal for those who need one or two courses to graduate or for those who want to lighten their academic load during upcoming semesters.

The college will be accepting applications from new and returning students (those who did not take courses during the fall 2012 semester) for the Intersession Term until Dec. 6, 2012.

Note that supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must also be turned in before the day of registration. Application forms submitted after the deadline will be processed for the following semester, spring 2013.

New and returning students are required to attend a student orientation in order to register. Two sessions are scheduled on Dec. 17, 2012. If you are unable to attend either session listed in the calendar below, contact the Office of Student Activities and Leadership at 234-5498 ext. 1253.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the Intersession, log on to www.nmcnet.edu to view the Frequently-Asked-Questions section, class schedules, and important dates. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1524. ***(NMC)***

IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 6: Deadline to apply for admission for NMC's Intersession Term
- Dec. 17: Mandatory new and returning student orientation
  Session 1: 9am – 12pm
  Session 2: 4pm – 7pm
  NMC Student Center (Building J)
- Dec. 18-19: Intersession Term 2012 Registration, 8am – 5pm
- Dec. 19: First Day of Class
- Jan. 9: Last Day of Class
- Jan. 10: Final Exam Day

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

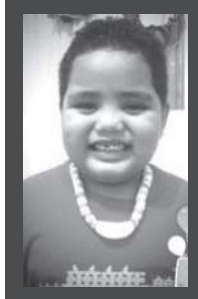
Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 21, from 10:30am to 4:30pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)***

Headstart Parents' Meeting today

The CK CPIC Headstart will have a Parents' Meeting today, Nov. 19, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria. Parents must attend to vote on issues and projects. Guest speakers will attend. Contact Ray at 234-7291 for more information. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

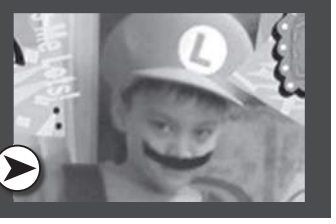


Many years ago on this very day, you came into our lives and brought us happiness, joy and a lot of love. We couldn't ask for a better big brother and a better son than you are. Happy 5th birthday my boy, my big dinosaur, Aundre Togawa! We love you my son and we wish you a lifetime of happiness and joy! With lots of love, Mom, Dad, and Kaeden.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday Vidal Jose H. Camacho! Enjoy your day! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Irie, and Dre.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 12-037

Opening Date: Friday, 11/09/12
Closing Date: Until Filled

Petroleum and Compliance Manager

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:
Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director or designee, the Petroleum and Compliance Manager fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051. Position is known in the SO as the Technical Manager for Oil (TMO).

- The SO states: "The TMO shall be primarily responsible for overseeing, all oil spill prevention, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by Stipulated Order. The TMO shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding Section 311 CWA compliance issues…The TMO will have authority to make decisions for management and operations of oil related items required by Stipulated Order."
- Additional examples of duties may include but is not limited to:
  - Plan and implement, using resources provided by CUC or other agencies, all oil, fuels (whether waste or clean), projects and programs in accordance with accepted industry standards and practices.
  - Communicate regularly with USEPA, DEQ, USCG and other regulatory agencies to ensure that CUC is meeting relevant environmental regulations and laws pertaining to oil and fuels.
  - Troubleshoot problems of engineering or of a technical nature relating to oil that may arise in operations of CUC whether at the power plants, power transmission & distribution or water and wastewater divisions.
  - Prepare Capital Improvement Project (CIP) submissions as required in order for CUC to secure funding.
  - Prepare scope of work for oil projects whether outsourced (contracted) or performed in-house.
  - Oversee and inspect tanks, containments, berms, pipelines & appurtenances and all other facilities that pertain to oil and fuels.
  - Specify equipment and materials necessary for the proper management of oil and fuel including storage, containment, disposal, spill prevention, and clean-up.
  - Prepare specifications for oil-related projects that are bid out.
  - Coordinate spill response with other agencies such as the oil companies.
  - Arrange for analyses of oil and fuels including power distribution equipment with EPA-approved laboratories.
  - Supervise all oil clean-up, recovery, recycling or disposal activities at CUC.
  - Assist the Deputy Executive Director and/or Executive Director in responding to formal requests or orders from Federal or Commonwealth regulatory agencies.
  - Participate in CUC-wide strategic planning.
  - Maintain training and education certification related to oil work.
  - Ensure workers under supervision are trained and acutely aware of safety and environmental requirements.
  - Coordinate activities with the managers and supervisors at Power Generation.
  - Recruit necessary staff to ensure oil management functions are met.
  - Additional Responsibilities: Assist Water and Wastewater Divisions with technical support for water reservoirs and tanks; assist with other duties related to Stipulated Orders as requested by the Executive Director.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Successful candidates for CUC's Petroleum & Compliance Manager must have the following:

- "Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science or other field related to work in engineering, science or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, and one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations"
- "Proven management and communication skills"
- "Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff"
- "Experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during period of planning, design, and construction"
- "Further, the TMO should have experience with one or more of the following: oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statements of work; oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements."
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:
Although not required, successful candidates preferably will have:

- Master's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in civil, mechanical, or chemical engineering; Certification in API tank inspection;
- Management experience of at least ten (10) years in a multi-service utility, public works or petroleum tank farm operation.

SALARY INFORMATION:
Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of $70,000.00 to $130,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" drop off your package.
2. Fax:
   670-235-5131
3. Drop Off:
   Drop off your package to the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate any discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No.: 12-038

Opening Date: Friday, 11/09/12
Closing Date: Until Filled

IN-HOUSE LEGAL COUNSEL

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:
Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director, In-House Counsel is entrusted with several matters. For example, CUC's In-House Counsel:

- Provides formal and informal legal advice to management.
- Drafts and reviews a broad range of legal documents, including legal opinions, proposed agency decisions, memoranda, contracts and other procurement documents.
- Represents CUC at a variety of meetings, negotiations and hearings.
- Provides legal oversight of procurement contracts for goods, services and construction.
- Assists management with developing policy and regulations to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulatory policies, including both local and federal statutes.
- Investigates and implements necessary actions for compliance with laws and corporate policies.
- Works closely with outside counsel regarding ongoing litigation.
- Advises management of a variety of legal issues, including, but not limited to, billing disputes, human resource matters, property-related disputes, contract negotiations and interpretations, and personal-injury claims.
- Assists management with developing policy and regulations.
- Performs short- and long-range strategic planning.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
Successful candidates for CUC's In-House Counsel must:

- Hold a law degree from an accredited U.S. law school.
- Be a current member in good standing of the bar of any state within the United States, the CNMI or Guam.
- If not currently a member of the CNMI Bar, be eligible for prompt admission to the CNMI Bar. For admission requirements, visit http://www.cnmilaw.org/court_rules.htm.
- Have excellent interpersonal skills, be mature and self-sufficient, communicate effectively orally and in writing, and possess excellent professional judgment.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:
Although not required, successful candidates preferably will have:

- Experience with utility law, federal and/or state energy regulatory law, and government procurement.
- Contract drafting and negotiation skills.
- Familiarity with working in a highly regulated industry.
- An understanding of the economics of electric power.
- A working knowledge of the legal and commercial issues involved in procurement, construction contracts, project finance, operations and maintenance agreements, and other utility project agreements.
- Experience working for or appearing before a federal regulatory agency.
- Strong business judgment and the ability to understand and respond to business issues and needs.
- Self-motivation, self-discipline and be results-oriented, with an ability to manage priorities and workflow.
- The ability to independently, and handle both small and large matters with equal effectiveness and enthusiasm.
- A background in finance, accounting, engineering or economics.
- The ability to manage multiple complex matters simultaneously.

SALARY INFORMATION:
Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of $65,000.00 to $115,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:
If hired from outside the CNMI, not to exceed $10,000.00 for relocation to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for relocation away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

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NMC's Start Smart Seminar

Tinian High School juniors and seniors and Northern Marianas College staff members take time to pose for a group photo before the students boarded the bus back to Tinian Junior Senior High School. The Start Smart Seminar, which was funded by the College Access Challenge Grant program, was created to help students learn about the important of post secondary education, finding financial aid for college and succeeding in college.

NMC

Northern Marianas College Tinian Site Coordinator Maria Aguon, standing, passes out event evaluations to high school juniors and seniors from Tinian Junior Senior High School at the conclusion of the recent Start Smart Seminar hosted at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

NMC

Sherman- Pacific President Phil Long, far right, answers questions about college life posed by Tinian high school juniors and seniors during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" segment of the Start Smart Seminar.

NMC

CNMI Public School System Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita Sablan gives inspirational remarks and advice to the Tinian high school juniors and seniors at the recent Start Smart Seminar.

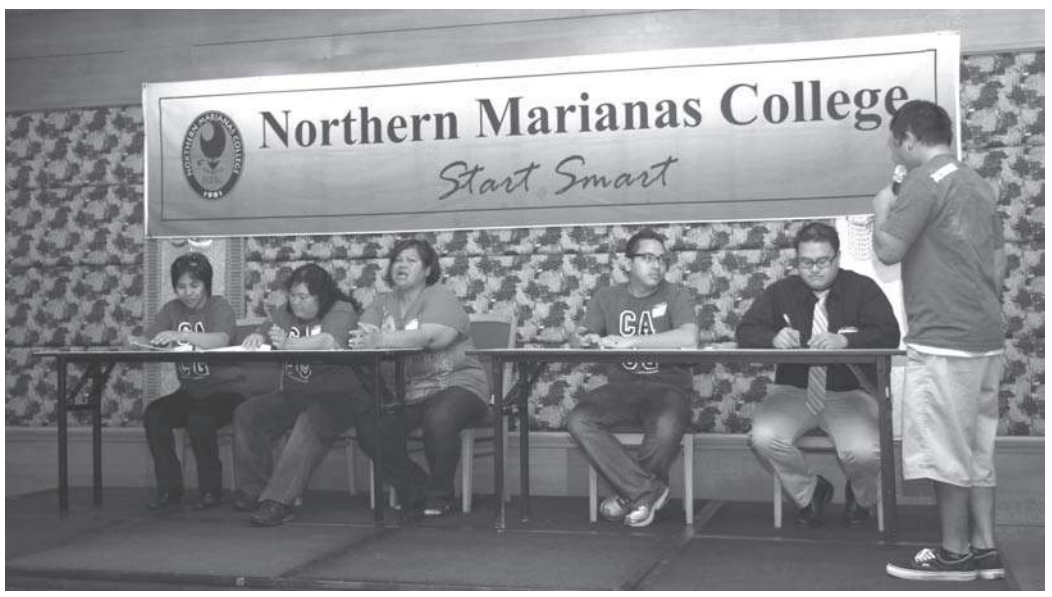
NMC

Tinian Junior Senior High School juniors and seniors engage in a communication building activity called "TJSHS Bingo" at the NMC's recent Start Smart Seminar.

NMC

CNMI Board of Education Tinian Representative Lucy Blanco-Maratita, center, shares her college experiences with Tinian high school juniors and seniors during "I'm Graduating, Now What?" segment of the Seminar.

NMC



Northern Marianas College staff members participate in an educational activity facilitated by Tinian Junior Senior High School juniors and seniors.

NMC

High school juniors and seniors from Tinian Junior Senior High School take part in a morning energizer at the Start Smart Seminar hosted by the Northern Marianas College.

NMC

Business

Crave a Twinkie? The price is going up fast online

AP

Twinkies baked goods are displayed for sale at the Hostess Brands' bakery in Denver, Colo. on Friday, Nov. 16, 2012.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Twinkies are being sold on the Internet like exquisite delicacies.

Hours after Twinkie-maker Hostess announced its plans to close its doors forever, people flocked to stores to fill their shopping baskets with boxes of the cream-filled sponge cakes and their sibling snacks—Ding Dongs, Ho Hos and Zingers.

Late Friday and Saturday, the opportunists took to eBay and Craigslist. They began marketing their hoard to whimsical collectors and junk-food lovers for hundreds—and in some cases—thousands of dollars. That's a fat profit margin, when you consider the retail price for a box of 10 Twinkies is roughly $5.

Greg Edmonds of Sherman, Texas is among those who believe Twinkies are worth more now that Hostess Brands Inc. has closed its bakeries. He lost his job as a sales representative eight months ago, so he is hoping to make some money feeding the appetites of Twinkie fans and connoisseurs

After spending a couple hours driving around to stores Friday, Edmonds wound up with 16 boxes of Twinkies and Ding Dongs. He started selling them Saturday on eBay, advertising three boxes for a hefty price of $300.

"I could really use the extra money since I'm unemployed," Edmonds, 50, said. "I figure I better sell them pretty quickly because I am not sure how long this novelty is going to last."

Contrary to popular belief, Twinkies don't last forever. Most bought in stores Friday carry an expiration date of early December.

Democrats toughen stance on trimming benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's re-election has stiffened Democrats' spine against cutting popular benefit programs such as Medicare and Social Security. Their new resolve could become as big a hurdle to a deal that would skirt crippling tax increases and spending cuts in January as Republicans' resistance to raising tax rates on the wealthy.

Just last year, Obama and top Democrats were willing during budget negotiations with Republicans to take politically risky steps such as reducing the annual inflation adjustment to Social Security and raising the eligibility age for Medicare.

Now, with new leverage from Obama's big election victory and a playing field for negotiations that is more favorable in other ways, too, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and other Democrats are taking a harder line.

"I've made it very clear. I've told anyone that will listen, including everyone in the White House, including the president, that I am not going to be part of having Social Security as part of these talks relating to this deficit," Reid, D-Nev., told reporters.

Reid's edict would appear to take a key proposal off the table as an ingredient for a deal on avoiding the "fiscal cliff," the year-end combination of expiring President George W. Bush-era tax cuts and harsh across-the-board spending cuts.

At issue is the inflation adjustment used by the government to calculate cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security and other federal programs. A less generous inflation measure that takes into account consumers finding alternatives when prices go up could reduce deficits by more than $200 billion over the next decade.

Gas drilling presents Obama with historic choices

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Energy companies, environmental groups, and even Hollywood stars are watching to see what decisions President Barack Obama makes about regulating or promoting natural gas drilling.

The stakes are huge. Business leaders don't want government regulations to slow the flow of hundreds of billions of dollars of clean, cheap domestic energy over the next few decades. Environmental groups see that same tide as a potential threat, not just to air and water, but to renewable energy. And on a strategic level, diplomats envision a future when natural gas helps make the U.S. less beholden to imports.

Some say the unexpected drilling boom presents historic options—and risks—for the Obama administration. "It's a tough choice. The president is in a real bind," said Charles Ebinger, director of the energy security initiative at the Brookings Institution, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit. "I think the question is what does he want his legacy to be?"

Ebinger said that if Obama fully embraced the boom in gas drilling the nation could see "incredible" job gains that could lead to "a re-industrialization of America." Possibilities like that are tempting to any president, and perhaps even more so in the current economy.

"But really embracing this stuff is going to bring him squarely in conflict with some of his environmental supporters. It's not without some possible peril, particularly if he gets to be seen too cozy with the oil and gas folks," Ebinger said.

Nation

Republicans: GOP needs to get with the times

WASHINGTON (AP)—To hear some Republicans tell it, the Grand Old Party needs to get with the times.

Some of the early prescriptions offered by officials and operatives to rebuild after devastating elections: retool the party message to appeal to Latinos, women and working-class people; upgrade antiquated get-out-the-vote systems with the latest technology. Teach candidates how to handle the new media landscape.

From longtime GOP luminaries to the party's rising stars, almost everyone asked about the Republicans' Nov. 6 election drubbing seems to agree that a wholesale update is necessary for a party that appears to be running years behind Democrats in adapting to rapidly changing campaigns and an evolving electorate.

Interviews with more than a dozen Republicans at all levels of the party indicated that postelection soul-searching must quickly turn into a period of action.

"We've got to have a very brutally honest review from stem to stern of what we did and what we didn't do, and what worked and what failed," said former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, who ran the party in the 1990s.

The party "has to modernize in a whole wide range of ways," added former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who ran against White House nominee Mitt Romney in the 2012 presidential primary. "We were clearly wrong on a whole range of fronts."

To determine what went wrong, the Republican National Committee is examining every detail of the 2012 elections, with the goal of rebuilding the party for the future—much as the Democratic Party did in the 1980s after suffering a series of stinging losses at all levels of government.

Now, as was the case back then, the stakes are enormous for the party that failed to win the White House and has lost the popular vote for several national elections in a row. They're perhaps even higher for Republicans grappling for ways to court a rapidly changing electorate whose voting groups don't naturally gravitate toward the GOP. The dangers of failing to act could be severe: permanent minority status.

So it's little surprise that after the election, some Republicans were quick to sound stark warnings.

The scale of the losses largely shocked a party whose top-shelf operatives went into Election Day believing Republicans had at least a decent chance of capturing the White House and gaining ground in Congress, where Republicans controlled the House and had a sizable minority in the Senate.

Instead, Romney lost all but one of the nine contested states, North Carolina, to President Barack Obama and was trounced in the electoral vote. Republicans also lost ground to Democrats in both houses of Congress, though Republicans retained their House majority.

Coast Guard: Body found near burned Gulf oil rig

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Divers hired by the owner of an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico that caught fire recovered a body in the waters near the site Saturday evening, according to the U.S. Coast Guard and the rig's owner.

Coast Guard spokesman Carlos Vega said late Saturday that the remains of the unidentified person were found by divers hired by Houston-based Black Elk Energy, who were inspecting the platform. Vega said the Coast Guard would be turning over the remains to local authorities.

John Hoffman, the president and CEO of Black Elk Energy, wrote in an email late Saturday that the body is apparently that of one of two crew members missing since an explosion and fire on the oil platform Friday morning. Hoffman said the body was found by a contract dive vessel at 5:25 p.m. CST.

"Divers will continue to search for the second missing worker," Hoffman wrote. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families."

Hoffman said the body was found close to the leg of the platform, near where the explosion occurred, in about 30 feet of water. He said the missing men were employees of oilfield contractor Grand Isle Shipyard.

"We have notified next of kin of all individuals involved, but in respect for their families and their privacy, we will not be releasing their names," GIS CEO Mark Pregeant said in a statement, according to WWL-TV in New Orleans.

The news came shortly after the Coast Guard suspended a 32-hour-long search for the two missing workers that covered 1,400 square miles (3626 sq. kilometers) near the oil platform, located about 20 miles (40 kilometers) southeast of Grand Isle, La.

"We have saturated the search area several times—the 1400-square-foot area," Vega said. "We saw no signs of life. We have suspended the search... pending further development. If we receive any credible information that there are signs of life, we can resume the search at any time."

Four other workers who were severely burned remained at Baton Rouge General Medical Center on Saturday night.

ACROSS THE NATION

Officials: Vets' float crossed track after signals

MIDLAND, Texas (AP)—A parade float filled with wounded veterans that was struck by a freight train had crossed onto the railroad tracks after warning signals were going off, investigators said Saturday. Four veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan were killed and 16 more people were injured when the train crashed into the flatbed truck in West Texas. It was the second of two floats carrying veterans in Thursday's parade in Midland. The first was exiting the tracks when the warning bells and signals were activated, 20 seconds before the accident, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. The second float didn't enter the tracks until several seconds after the warning system went off, the NTSB said. By that time, the guardrail was lowering.

Monkey dies from blow to head after zoo break-in

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—A break-in at Zoo Boise early Saturday left a Patas monkey dead from blunt force trauma to the head and neck and police were analyzing blood found at the scene to determine if it came from the monkey or one of two human intruders. Two males wearing dark clothing were spotted by a security guard at 4:30 a.m. outside the fence near the primate exhibit, police said. Both fled, one of them heading into the interior of the zoo. Boise police used a thermal imager in searching the 11-acre zoo grounds but didn't find the person. "I've been here for 15 years and we haven't had anything like this happen," Zoo Boise Director Steve Burns said. "It's unfortunate that we have to let kids know that something like this happens. Monkeys are always among the most favorite animals here."

Asia

Personal, strategic motivations for Obama in Asia

BANGKOK (AP)—For President Barack Obama, expanding U.S. influence in Asia is more than just countering China or opening up new markets to American businesses. It's also about building his legacy.

Fresh off re-election, Obama will make a significant investment in that effort during a quick run through Southeast Asia that begins Sunday. In addition to stops in Thailand and Cambodia, the president will make a historic visit to Myanmar, where his administration has led efforts to ease the once pariah nation out of international isolation.

Obama

The trip marks Obama's fourth visit to Asia in as many years. He kicks off his schedule in Bangkok. With a second term now guaranteed, aides say Obama will be a regular visitor to the region over the next four years as well.

"Continuing to fill in our pivot to Asia will be a critical part of the president's second term and ultimately his foreign policy legacy," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser.

The president's motivations in Asia are both personal and strategic.

Obama, who was born in Hawaii and lived in Indonesia as a child, has called himself America's first "Pacific president." The region gives him an opportunity to open up new markets for U.S. companies, promote democracy and ease fears of China's rise by boosting U.S. military presence in area.

The president, like many of his predecessors, had hoped to cement his foreign policy legacy in the Middle East. He visited two major allies in the region, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, on one of his first overseas trips as president and attempted to revive peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

But those talks stalled, and fresh outbursts of violence between Israel and the Palestinians make the prospects of a peace accord appear increasingly slim. The Obama-backed Arab Spring democracy push has had mixed results so far, with Islamists taking power in Egypt and progress in Libya tainted by the deadly attacks on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. Obama hasn't been back to the region since 2009.

In Asia, however, Obama will be viewed as something of an elder statesman when he returns less than two weeks after winning re-election. The region is undergoing significant leadership changes, most notably in China, where the Communist Party tapped new leaders last week. Japan and South Korea will both hold new elections soon.

"Most of the leaders he'll meet with will not have a tenure as long as he will as president," said Michael Green, an Asia scholar at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "So he'll go into this in a very strong position."

The centerpiece of Obama's whirlwind Asia tour is his visit to Myanmar. It will be the first time a U.S. president has visited the former pariah state.

Myanmar has become something of a pet project for Obama and his national security aides, who have cheered the country's significant strides toward democracy.

Tibetan woman, the latest to self-immolate, dies

BEIJING (AP)—A Tibetan taxi driver has set herself on fire and died in the latest of dozens of protests against Chinese rule over the Himalayan region, overseas rights groups said.

Chagmo Kyi, a mother of two, self-immolated Saturday afternoon in a square in Tongren county in western China's Qinghai province, the eighth self-immolation in the Tongren area since Nov. 4, the Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet said in an email.

According to the group, 75 people have self-immolated in ethnically Tibetan areas since February 2009, and most of them have died.

Tibet support groups overseas say an increase in protests the past two weeks was meant to highlight Tibetans' unhappiness with Chinese rule as the country's leaders handed over power to younger successors at a Communist Party congress in Beijing.

Tibetan delegates attending the congress told reporters they believed much of the blame for the spate of self-immolations fell on the Dalai Lama, Tibetans' spiritual leader, and his associates, whom they said were instigating the protests.

The Dalai Lama and representatives of the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile in India say they oppose all violence.

The International Campaign for Tibet reported that hundreds of Tibetans were surrounded by troops as they attended Chagmo Kyi's cremation at a site normally used for the cremation of monks and lamas.

The group said the woman had frequently driven between Tongren and Xining, the provincial capital, and was also a farmer.

London-based Free Tibet also reported the self-immolation, and said at least 20 trucks, each carrying 20 armed police officers, were stationed at intersections in Tongren's capital, Rongwo, where people have previously self-immolated in protest. It also said there were reports of cars, each with about five government officials inside, positioned every 20 paces along most streets, monitoring the population.

Authorities in Tongren and Huangnan prefecture, which oversees the county, either refused to comment or said they hadn't heard about the self-immolation. Calls to Tongren police rang unanswered.

Independent verification of events and conditions in Tibet is nearly impossible because of restrictions on travel.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Southeast Asia to adopt human rights declaration

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Diplomats say Southeast Asian leaders have decided to launch a human rights declaration despite last-minute calls for a postponement by critics, including Washington, who say the pact contains loopholes that can allow atrocities to continue. According to diplomats, the 10 leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, an unwieldy bloc of liberal democracies and authoritarian states, will sign a document adopting the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration on Sunday in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, where the heads of state are holding an annual summit. The nonbinding declaration calls for an end to torture, arbitrary arrests and other rights violations that have been longtime concerns in the region.

2 killed in train ambush in Thailand's south

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Suspected insurgents have detonated an improvised bomb that derailed a train and killed two railway guards in Thailand's south, hours before President Barack Obama visits the country. The Sunday attack in Rue So district of Narathiwat province disrupted train services in the three violence-plagued southernmost provinces. Police Col. Dulyaman Yaena said an unknown number of insurgents exchanged gunfire with other railway guards before fleeing.

World

Israel attacks Hamas media operations in Gaza

AP

Smoke rises during an explosion from an Israeli forces strike in Gaza City, Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Israeli military widened its range of targets in the Gaza Strip on Sunday to include the media operations of the Palestinian territory's Hamas rulers, sending its aircraft to attack two buildings used by both Hamas and foreign media outlets.

The Israeli military also appeared to take over the frequencies of the radio stations of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad militant group to broadcast a recorded, Arabic-language warning to the people of Gaza to stay away from Hamas installations and personnel.

"To the people of Gaza, Hamas is playing with fire and gambling with your fate," said the message, which was broadcast every five minutes. "The Israel Defense Force is moving toward the second phase of its operation. For your safety, you should stay away from Hamas infrastructure and personnel."

The message did not say what the "second phase" was, but thousands of Israeli troops are massed near the Gaza border, awaiting an order to invade should Israeli leaders decide on that course. Israeli Vice Premier Moshe Yaalon told Army Radio on Sunday that Israel has to be prepared to widen the operation if militants don't back down.

The military spokesman's office said it could not immediately confirm it was broadcasting this message, but said it has issued similar warnings over the radio several days ago.

The attack on the second media center shattered a lull in rocket attacks from Gaza that had taken hold the previous night and coincided with Egyptian-led efforts to negotiate an end to the five-day-old confrontation.

In bold move, France welcomes Syria ambassador

PARIS (AP)—France on Saturday welcomed a member of the Syrian opposition as the country's ambassador, a bold bid to confer legitimacy on the week-old opposition coalition and encourage other Western nations to follow suit.

The new envoy, Mounzir Makhous, appeared before the press after talks at France's presidential palace between President Francois Hollande and the head of the newly formed Syrian opposition coalition.

France has swiftly stepped out ahead of Western allies nearly since the start of the Syrian uprising 20 months ago. Saturday's surprise announcement came even before the brand new coalition has named its provisional government and before a place in Paris to house the envoy has been found.

"There will be an ambassador of Syria in France," Hollande announced. France expelled its Syrian ambassador in May, along with more a half-dozen other countries.

Mouaz Al-Khatib, the opposition leader, described Makhous as "one of the first to speak of liberty" in Syria. He holds four doctorate degrees and belongs to the Muslim Alawite sect of President Bashar Assad, demonstrating an effort to reach out to all of Syria's people, al-Khatib said.

France recognized the coalition days after it was formed last Sunday—and so far is the only Western country to do so.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egyptian train hits school bus, 51 killed

ASSIUT, Egypt (AP)—A speeding train that crashed into a bus carrying Egyptian children to their kindergarten on Saturday killed 51 and prompted a wave of anger against a government under mounting pressure to rectify the former regime's legacy of neglect. The crash, which killed children between four and six years old and three adults, led to local protests and accusations from outraged Egyptians that President Mohammed Morsi is failing to deliver on the demands of last year's uprising for basic rights, dignity and social justice. The accident left behind a mangled shell of a bus twisted underneath the blood-splattered train outside the city of Assiut, some 200 miles (320 kilometers) south of Cairo. Children's body parts, their books, schoolbags and tiny socks were strewn along the tracks.

UN launches aerial attack on rebels in east Congo

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—U.N. attack helicopters targeted M23 rebels in eastern Congo on Saturday after fighting resumed following a monthslong lull in violence, a local official said. Two army officers and 151 rebels were killed in a battle beginning Thursday that the U.N. called the worst clash between the M23 group and the military since July. Attack helicopters for the U.N. mission in Congo, known as MONUSCO, had been on standby. "MONUSCO helicopters this morning bombarded the M23 positions in the city of Kibumba," said North Kivu governor Julien Paluku. He said the Congolese army had earlier retreated from Kibumba, which is 30 kilometers (19 miles) north of Goma, after thousands of Rwandans, who he says were backing the rebels, attacked early Saturday.

Health & Fitness

Report: Steps can reduce preterm births—a little

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—For all the miracle stories of tiny preemies who survive, the sad reality is that scientists know far too little about what triggers premature birth and how to prevent it. And despite some recent progress, the U.S. has a far higher rate of preterm births than other similar nations.

On Thursday, an international coalition said there are a handful of proven protections—and if the U.S. and other developed countries do a better job of using them, together they could keep 58,000 babies a year from being born too soon.

That's a blip in the global epidemic of prematurity: About 15 million preterm babies are born every year, most of them in Africa and parts of Asia where the priority is to improve care of these fragile newborns. More than 1 million premature infants die, mostly in developing countries, and survivors can suffer lifelong disabilities.

But in wealthier countries, where sophisticated medical care already keeps most preemies alive, the focus is shifting to how to prevent these births in the first place. Nearly 1 in 10 births across the developed world are preterm, and about 1 in 8 in the U.S. Only recently have rates begun leveling off or dropping in many of these countries after years of steady increases.

Thursday's report makes clear just how hard additional progress on that front will be—projecting an average 5 percent drop in preterm birth rates across the highest-income countries by 2015, if they follow the new advice.

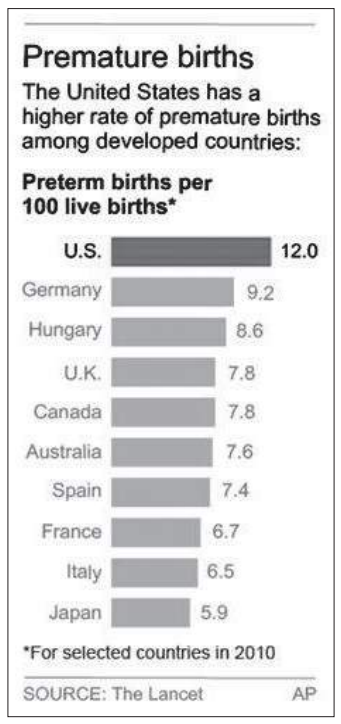
"Shockingly, very little reduction is currently possible," specialists with the World Health Organization, Save the Children, U.S. National Institutes of Health, March of Dimes and other groups reported in The Lancet.

But even that improvement would translate into about $3 billion in annuals savings from medical bills and lost productivity, the group calculated. Nearly half that savings would be in the U.S.

The bigger message: It's time for a major scientific push to figure out the causes of preterm birth and find some better ways to intervene.

"I don't think it's hopeless at all," said report co-author Dr. Catherine Spong, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist at NIH who points to clues that infections and inflammation affecting the mother play a yet-to-be-understood role.

Because healthier babies grow into healthier adults, "if you could improve pregnancy outcomes, you could improve the health of the nation, quite honestly," she added.



Booze calories nearly equal soda's for US adults

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ON THE NET
CDC report: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans get too many calories from soda. But what about alcohol? It turns out adults get almost as many empty calories from booze as from soft drinks, a government study found.

Soda and other sweetened drinks—the focus of obesity-fighting public health campaigns—are the source of about 6 percent of the calories adults consume, on average. Alcoholic beverages account for about 5 percent, the new study found.

"We've been focusing on sugar-sweetened beverages. This is something new," said Cynthia Ogden, one of the study's authors. She's an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which released its findings Thursday.

The government researchers say the findings deserve attention because, like soda, alcohol contains few nutrients but plenty of calories.

But a liquor trade association said the findings indicate there's no big problem.

"This research shows that the overwhelming majority of adults drink moderately," Lisa Hawkins, a spokeswoman for the Distilled Spirits Council, said in a statement.

The CDC study is based on interviews with more than 11,000 U.S. adults from 2007 through 2010. Participants were asked extensive questions about what they ate and drank over the previous 24 hours.

The study found:

■ On any given day, about one-third of men and one-fifth of women consumed calories from beer, wine or liquor.

■ Averaged out to all adults, the average guy drinks 150 calories from alcohol each day, or the equivalent of a can of Budweiser.

■ The average woman drinks about 50 calories, or roughly half a glass of wine.

■ Men drink mostly beer. For women, there was no clear favorite among alcoholic beverages.

■ There was no racial or ethnic difference in average calories consumed from alcoholic beverages. But there was an age difference, with younger adults putting more of it away.

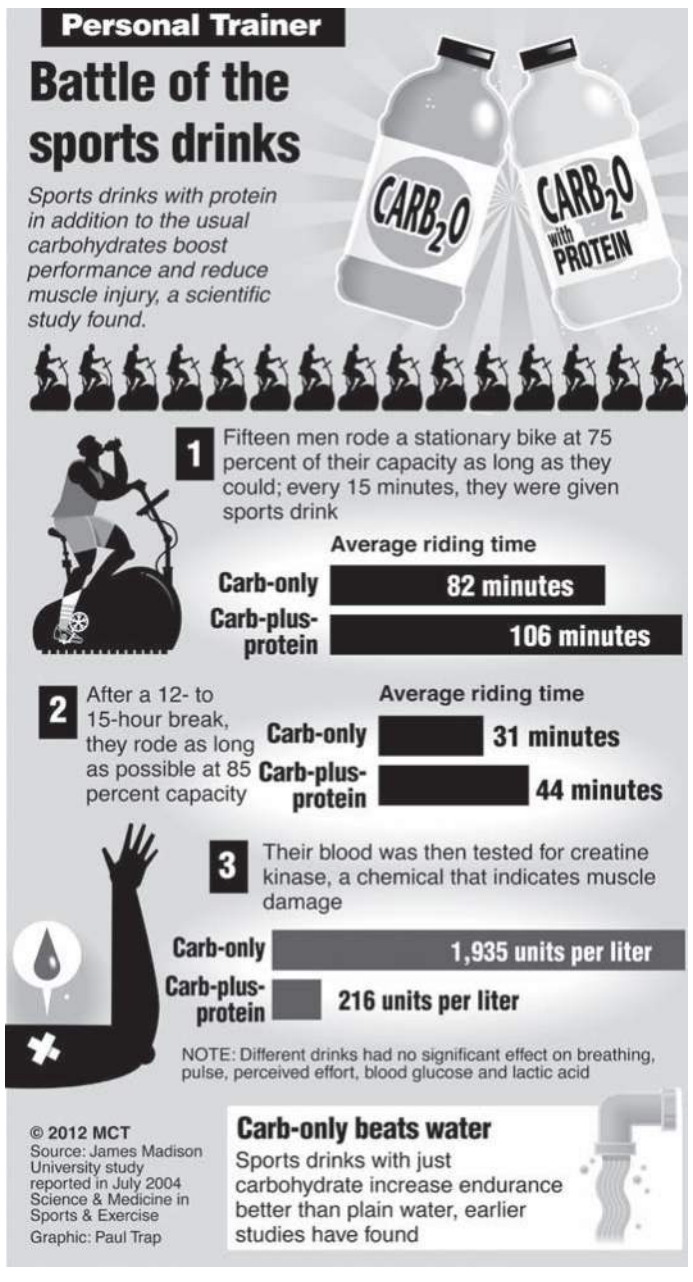
For reference, a 12-ounce can of regular Coca-Cola has 140 calories, slightly less than a same-sized can of regular Bud. A 5-ounce glass of wine is around 100 calories.

In September, New York City approved an unprecedented measure cracking down on giant sodas, those bigger than 16 ounces, or half a liter. It will take effect in March and bans sales of drinks that large at restaurants, cafeterias and concession stands.

Should New York officials now start cracking down on tall-boy beers and monster margaritas?

There are no plans for that, city health department officials said, adding in a statement that while studies show that sugary drinks are "a key driver of the obesity epidemic," alcohol is not.

Health officials should think about enacting policies to limit alcoholic intake, but New York's focus on sodas is appropriate, said Margo Wootan, director of nutrition policy for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a public health advocacy group.


Personal Trainer
Battle of the sports drinks
Sports drinks with protein in addition to the usual carbohydrates boost performance and reduce muscle injury, a scientific study found.
CARB2O
CARB2O with PROTEIN
1 Fifteen men rode a stationary bike at 75 percent of their capacity as long as they could; every 15 minutes, they were given sports drink
Average riding time
Carb-only 82 minutes
Carb-plus-protein 106 minutes
2 After a 12- to 15-hour break, they rode as long as possible at 85 percent capacity
Average riding time
Carb-only 31 minutes
Carb-plus-protein 44 minutes
3 Their blood was then tested for creatine kinase, a chemical that indicates muscle damage
Carb-only 1,935 units per liter
Carb-plus-protein 216 units per liter
NOTE: Different drinks had no significant effect on breathing, pulse, perceived effort, blood glucose and lactic acid
© 2012 MCT
Source: James Madison University study reported in July 2004 Science & Medicine in Sports & Exercise
Graphic: Paul Trap
Carb-only beats water
Sports drinks with just carbohydrate increase endurance better than plain water, earlier studies have found

Death and Funeral Announcement

Vicente Chargualaf Pangelinan Jr.

Better Known as "**Jun Migua**"

Class of 1968

Born on January 16, 1949
Died on November 12, 2012

He now joins his:

Father: Vicente Blas Pangelinan
Mother: Isabel Ilano Chargualaf Pangelinan
Brothers: Juan Chargualaf Pangelinan
Lorenzo Chargualaf Pangelinan
Brother in law: Jose Isaias Lairopi Itibus
Sister in law: Felisa Sablan Pangelinan

He was survived by his children:

Joseph Camacho Pangelinan (Nicole and Lawrence)
Jeffrey Camacho Pangelinan/Ariann Flores Pangelinan (Reana, Jaime, Franklin, Jeffrey James II)
Keolani Vincent Pangelinan

He was additionally survived by his Brothers/Sisters/In-laws

Felicita H. Pangelinan and Children
Jose Chargualaf Pangelinan/Ophelia Pangelinan and Children
Trinidad P. Crisostomo/Jesus A. Crisostomo and Children
Rosalina P. Santos/Roman N. Santos and Children
Francisco Chargualaf Pangelinan/Maria SN. Pangelinan and Children
Juanita Pangelinan Itibus and Children
Magdalena P. Quitugua/Mark B.Quitugua and Children

Nightly masses are being held at San Vicente Church at 6:00 PM on November 12, 2012 until November 19, 2012. Viewing will be held at the CHC Chapel on November 20, 2012 at 6:00AM. Rosary will be said at 8:00 AM and Responso will be at 9:00 AM. His remains will be escorted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral which will be followed by his Funeral Mass at 10:00 AM. His remains will be buried at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you from the Family

Life & Style

Where do the 'Twilight' stars go from here?

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner have walked their last "Twilight" red carpet with the arrival this weekend of the series finale "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2." Now, they must step into careers of their own using the superstardom the multi-billion-dollar franchise has provided them.

Making that transition from a beloved film series with a fervent fan base can be tricky. Do you stick to the same kinds of roles that people came to love you for and maintain the safety of familiarity? Or do you veer drastically in the other direction to prove to the world that you have range—that you're so much more than just a mopey teenage girl or a hunky set of abs?

"Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe, for example, has successfully made choices that showcase his versatility, from appearing on stage naked in a Broadway production of "Equus" to the gothic horror film "The Woman in Black." His "Harry Potter" co-star, Emma Watson, played a damaged party girl this year in "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," a character who couldn't have been more different from the fastidious Hermione Granger.

The three core "Twilight" stars have all struck while the iron was hot, making a variety of films in between the five "Twilight Saga" installments about high schooler Bella Swan and the vampire and werewolf who competed for her affections.

Stewart was the best known of the "Twilight" trio before being cast as Bella. She'd played Jodie Foster's daughter in the 2002 thriller "Panic Room" and a commune singer who befriends Emile Hirsch's character in Sean Penn's Oscar-nominated "Into the Wild" (2007).

Her choices between the "Twilight" movies have run the gamut, from playing a young Joan Jett in the 2010 biopic "The Runaways" to a fairy-tale warrior princess in this summer's "Snow White and the Huntsman." Next month, she'll appear in "On the Road," based on the iconic Jack Kerouac novel.

"Kristen seems to do a lot of indie movies. 'Snow White and the Huntsman' is more of an outlier in terms of being a blockbuster," said blogger and "Twilight" expert Cleolinda Jones, author of the "Movies in 15 Minutes" series. "But it seems like she's got the kind of personality where she's got to do what she has to do ... she's not thinking in terms of career strategy."

Andrei Constantinescu of the Dallas-based Legacy Casting says he'd like to see Stewart mix it up even more.

"Her non-'Twilight' film choices are bold and different to a point, but her dark and broody acting style, similar to her real-life persona, is a bit played," said Constantinescu, whose work as an extras casting director includes the TNT series "Dallas." ''I'd love to see her in a romantic workplace comedy like 'The Devil Wears Prada.'"

Pattinson has made some of the most daring and impressive choices of the three of them. Before being cast as the swoony vampire Edward Cullen, the lanky British actor appeared in another blockbuster franchise as Hogwarts student Cedric Diggory in 2005's "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." In 2009, he played Salvador Dali in the barely seen "Little Ashes," and last year he starred opposite Reese Witherspoon in the circus romance "Water for Elephants"—although Associated Press reviewer David Germain wrote there was "barely a spark" between the two.

AP

In this Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 file photo, from left, American actor Taylor Lautner, American actress Kristen Stewart and British actor Robert Pattinson pose during a photo call at the Spanish premiere of the film "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 2" in Kinepolis Cinema in Madrid, Spain.

But Pattinson also has worked with the likes of David Cronenberg, starring this year in the acclaimed Canadian director's financial drama "Cosmopolis," which takes place almost entirely inside a limousine. And he'll soon work with Cronenberg again in "Maps to the Stars," and also begin shooting Werner Herzog's "Queen of the Desert."

Jones says Pattison has wisely chosen to parlay his "Twilight" fame to collaborate with serious directors and actors.

"He knows he has a certain box office appeal so the fangirls are going to see him no matter what he's in," she said. "People are willing to work with him the first time, they see all this potential he has, then they want to come back and work with him again."

Constantinescu echoed those thoughts: "He's the one to watch for additional films down the line," he said. "We are just scratching the surface with Robert."

Then there's Lautner, who was just 15 when he auditioned for the role of the sensitive, muscular werewolf Jacob Black. He'd appeared in a few films by then, including playing the title character of Sharkboy in 2005's "The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D." In between the "Twilight" films, he stuck to lighter fare. He was part of the ensemble cast of 2010's "Valentine's Day" in a romantic subplot opposite Taylor Swift.

But Lautner's leading-man debut was last year's "Abduction," a title that naturally inspired plenty of puns about his famously toned frame. The thriller from director John Singleton found Lautner playing a high school student who gets caught up in a web of intrigue. AP reviewer Jake Coyle wrote that Lautner "handles himself reasonably well" but the script was the film's "major deficiency."

Jason Mraz to make historic appearance in Myanmar

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Jason Mraz will make history next month when he performs in Myanmar to raise awareness about human trafficking.

Mraz will headline a free outdoor concert on Dec. 16 at People's Square in Yangon, at the base of Shwedagon Pagoda.

The Grammy-winning singer-songwriter is the first international artist to perform an open-air concert in the country since the end of military rule last year. And he is believed to be just the second Western act to perform in the country in decades, joining Ozomatli's U.S. State Department-sponsored appearance in 2009.

"That's pretty exciting," Mraz said of the history involved, "and I'm going there with an enormous amount of gratitude and respect, and I hope we can actually make a difference. I hope it's also a testament to the songs. I've always wanted my songs to be about healing and self-empowerment, and if this is the way MTV is acknowledging that, then I am incredibly grateful."

Mraz

The show includes local acts and is hosted by MTV EXIT, the music channel's initiative to raise awareness about human trafficking and exploitation. It will be broadcast on Myanmar national television and will air on MTV's international network in 2013. Mraz hosted a similar concert in the Philippines last year. He first became interested in the issue about four years ago when he attended the Freedom Awards, an annual salute to those working against human exploitation put on by the organization Free the Slaves.

"I thought this was something that was abolished when Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, but all it did is become hidden from our view," Mraz said in a phone interview from Zurich, Switzerland. "There was a recent estimate that there are about 27 million people enslaved on the planet, certainly due to hard economic times not just in the Western world but certainly in Third World countries. Humans as a commodity is a great way to run your business. So I signed on, lent my voice, lent my music to the cause."

Myanmar is opening itself to the world since a military junta ceded power to a new elected government last year. President Thein Sein's government has pushed the country toward democracy, and this Monday Barack Obama is scheduled to become the first sitting U.S. president to visit the country.

Mraz says there is concern predators will prey on the vulnerable in this time of great flux. The concert offers an opportunity to "educate, empower and engage." The 35-year-old singer says he plans to tailor his show to the message.

"I do curate a set list that I feel is going to be part of that educate, empower and engage (theme)," he said. "Obviously songs like 'I'm Yours,' 'I Won't Give Up' are great examples. Or '93 Million Miles' is a new one where it's about believing in yourself. And a lot of my songs are about that, about believing in yourself and really going for your dreams. Those are the kinds of songs I'll be playing at that show."

Kelly Clarkson in no rush to become country star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's a reason Kelly Clarkson has performed duets with country superstars like Reba McEntire, Jason Aldean and Vince Gill but never one of her Top 40 colleagues in the 10 years since she became the first "American Idol". They've turned her down—eight times.

"I have, like, 5,000 duets in country music," Clarkson says, flashing a smile. "I don't have one in pop. That's legitimately because everyone turns me down. I'm not even kidding. I've asked sooo many artists to sing with me. Everyone legitimately turns me down! The only one that hasn't was Chris Daughtry."

The sugary sweet pop star who's called Nashville, Tenn., home for the past six years isn't naming names (and much to the dismay of fans, her collaborations with fellow "Idol" alum Daughtry were never released.) While she hasn't exactly been able to hook up with the perfect pop ally, Clarkson has found a partner outside the recording studio.

When asked what's impacted her life most over the past 10 years, other than winning the "Idol" prize, Clarkson doesn't hesitate to say it's falling in love with current boyfriend Brandon Blackstock, a Nashville-based talent manager whose father is Clarkson's own manager and stepmother is McEntire. The pair has been an item for the past eight months.

Clarkson

"I completely fell in love," she says. "Welcome to Cheeseville! I did. I don't know. Your priorities kind of shift and you become happier, and all that stuff. It's probably my best accomplishment because I think, for me, especially, I just didn't think it would happen. It's like one of those cheesy love songs that didn't exist, but it does, so that's cool."

Clarkson says she and Blackstock never go two weeks without seeing each other. Though he's changed her life, she doesn't expect her lovey-dovey relationship status to end her fondness for man-hating tracks like "Miss Independent" and "Mr. Know It All." She points to thumping new tune "People Like Us" from her upcoming "Greatest Hits—Chapter One," out Monday.

"He's totally gonna piss me off at some point, right?" Clarkson said. "I'll write about it."

Clarkson was originally apprehensive about releasing a "Greatest Hits" album. She's only 30, after all. Her label convinced her that it would be a celebration of her music career since winning the first season of "Idol" in 2002. And she could record some new tunes, including "Don't Rush," her soulful throwback country duet with Gill.

Another duet, her "Don't You Wanna Stay" collaboration with Aldean, helped her score a nomination for female vocalist of the year at the Country Music Association Awards. Obvious fan interest combined with her affinity for the music has led to speculation she might one day release a country album.

Despite the camaraderie she feels from the Nashville music scene, she isn't fully committed to making a leap from pop diva to country star. Though she isn't ruling out goin' country from time to time.

"I'm not ever gonna be one thing," she says. "I want great music. I don't care what it is. I'm not gonna record a country song just to be on country radio. I want it to be something I'd legitimately have on my album, if I'm having a pop, R&B, whatever album. I guess it's hard for people to wrap their heads around. I don't want to be pigeonholed."

Lady Gaga tweets some racy images before concert

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Lady Gaga's tweets were getting a lot of attention ahead of her Buenos Aires concert Friday night.

The Grammy-winning entertainer has more than 30 million followers on Twitter and that's where she shared a link this week to a short video showing her doing a striptease and fooling around in a bathtub with two other women.

She told her followers that it's a "surprise for you, almost ready for you to TASTE."

Then, in between concerts in Brazil and Argentina, she posted a picture Thursday on her Twitter page showing her wallowing in her underwear and impossibly high heels on top of the remains of what appears to be a strawberry shortcake.

"The real CAKE isn't HAVING what you want, it's DOING what you want," she tweeted.

AP

Lady Gaga fans wait to enter the stadium where the U.S. pop star will perform a concert, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Friday, Nov. 16, 2012.

Lady Gaga wore decidedly unglamorous baggy jeans and a blouse outside her Buenos Aires hotel Thursday as three burly bodyguards kept her fans at bay. Another pre-concert media event where she was supposed to be given "guest of honor" status by the city government Friday afternoon was cancelled.

After Argentina, she is scheduled to perform in Santiago, Chile; Lima, Peru; and Asuncion, Paraguay, before taking her "Born This Way Ball" tour to Africa, Europe and North America.

Bobby Brown pleads not guilty to drunken driving

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawyer for Bobby Brown has entered not guilty pleas to drunken driving and other charges faced by the R&B singer after his arrest last month in Los Angeles.

City attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan says the pleas were entered Friday. Brown's case is scheduled for its next hearing on Dec. 13.

Brown was arrested in October on suspicion of driving while under the influence. It was his second arrest for drunken driving this year in Los Angeles.

He also faces charges he was driving on a suspended license and did not have an ignition locking device on his car, as required from a previous case.

Brown pleaded no contest to drunken driving in April and entered rehab in August.

The 43-year-old is the former husband of Whitney Houston.

Levine, Bieber lead People's Choice nominees

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Adam Levine spans music and television with his leading six nominations for the People's Choice Awards.

Levine

The Maroon 5 frontman and star of TV's "The Voice" is up for favorite band, song, album and music video, along with favorite celebrity judge and favorite competition TV show.

Nominations were announced Thursday at the Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills, California.

Justin Bieber has five nods, followed by the newly crowned "Sexiest Man Alive" Channing Tatum with four. "Glee" was the most-nominated TV show with five, and "The Avengers" leads movie nominees with eight.

Fans chose the nominees by voting online and can do the same to select the winners. Voting in 48 categories continues through Dec. 13.

The People's Choice Awards will be presented Jan. 9, 2013, and broadcast on CBS.

Rihanna begins her 7-day world tour in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Seven concerts. Seven cities. Seven days.

Rihanna began her "777" tour in Mexico City Wednesday night with an exclusive party for about 2,000 fans.

Dressed in black shorts, a small black top and a black boxing robe, Rihanna was welcomed on the stage of the El Plaza Condesa concert hall with an ovation despite being two hours late. She thanked fans for their patience.

"This is incredible! Thank you very much for your patience. You really make me feel loved here," said the 24-year-old singer before opening the concert with "Cockiness (Love It)."

The show was a taste of what's to come in her "Diamonds World Tour" scheduled for the first half of 2013.

Rihanna

Rihanna arrived in Mexico City on a Boeing 777, which will take her to Toronto, Stockholm, Paris, Berlin, London and finally New York, where she will complete the grueling tour and present her latest album, "Unapologetic."

She also sang "Fresh Off The Runway" and "Diamonds" from her new album, which features collaborations with Eminem, David Guetta, Future and former boyfriend, Chris Brown.

"We've waited a long time to get back here, Mexico City!" said the singer.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Sarah Jessica Parker, Butler host Nobel concert

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sarah Jessica Parker and Gerard Butler are adding to the star wattage at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert. The actors will be the hosts of the 19th annual event, to be held Dec. 11 in Oslo, Norway. Jennifer Hudson and Seal are among the performers. The European Union captured the prize this year. Parker says she is honored to "promote the power of peace around the world. Butler said the European Union has shown "the world what is possible when forces unite in peace" and called the concert a "remarkable celebration of humanity." Past winners of the Nobel Peace Prize include Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, former Vice President Al Gore and President Barack Obama.

Pitbull, Ke$ha rehearse for American Music Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pitbull dressed up and Ke$ha went casual for American Music Awards rehearsals. The entertainers popped by the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles on Friday to practice the performances they've planned for Sunday's show. Ke$ha was surrounded by male dancers as she bounced around the stage in sneakers, striped leggings and a torn black T-shirt. She played a giant golden drum, and closed the rendition of her new hit "Die Young" by writhing on stage as fireworks rained down overhead. Pitbull, fresh off his performance at Thursday's Latin Grammy Awards, arrived wearing crisp white pants, a red polo shirt and a tan blazer. He ditched the blazer and added shades to rehearse "Don't Stop the Party," for which he shares the stage with two drummers, two keyboardists, two ballerinas and a DJ.

Stephen Colbert joins US presidents at wax museum

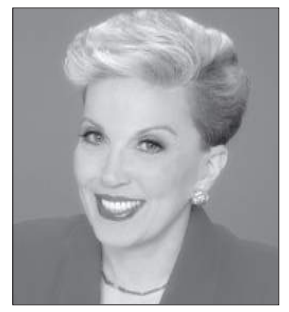
WASHINGTON (AP)—Comedian Stephen Colbert is taking his place among the presidents at the Madame Tussauds wax museum in Washington and will be featured in a new media gallery. Colbert visited the museum Friday to unveil a wax figure created to represent him. The museum says Colbert donated his own clothes to dress the figure in a suit, tie, cuff links and lapel pin. Colbert wore an identical outfit. The new figure will be the centerpiece of a new media gallery with a replica of "The Colbert Report" set where guests can sit next to Colbert's figure behind his fake news desk. Designers from Madame Tussauds went to Colbert's New York studio in June to take more than 250 measurements and photographs of the Comedy Central star to create the wax figure.

Larry Clark film wins top prize at Rome fest

ROME (AP)—A film by "Kids" director Larry Clark set in a small Texan town and to be released online only has taken the top award at Rome's film festival. "Marfa Girl" explores the inner life of a teenage boy and other characters in a town near the Mexican border and bustling with border patrol police. The festival jury gave it the Golden Marcus Aurelius prize for best film on Saturday night. Clark, whose other credits include "Bully" and "Ken Park," says the new film won't be distributed in theaters but will be available online later this month to get around the Hollywood system.

Despite two suicide attempts, family insists woman is 'fine'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 40-year-old woman, diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder after two suicide attempts. I have tried to get my parents and siblings to attend a session with me so they would understand my diagnosis, but all I hear is, "You don't need all those drugs. You're FINE—just a little different than the rest of us," and, "You have always been 'odd' and we like you that way."

I have given up trying to get their support, but my gifted 14-year-old nephew has been asking questions about my diagnosis. I'm not sure how much to tell him, especially about the suicide attempts, one of which landed me in the hospital.

Any advice about what I should tell him and how to get family support?

HEARING VOICES IN ILLINOIS

DEAR HEARING VOICES: Tell your nephew the truth. If he is as intellectually gifted as you say, he will go online and start researching. Explain that your condition can be overwhelming at times, which caused you at one point to try to harm yourself, but that it is kept in check with medication.

Your relatives may be reluctant to admit that there is a mental illness in the family, which is why they refuse to allow your psychiatrist to confirm it. However, you may be able to find support from NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. With 1,200 affiliates, NAMI provides grassroots, self-help groups for people with mental illness and family members who are affected by it.

The website is www.nami.org and I hope you will check it out. The organization was established in 1979, and it may be able to help you get through to your family that your problems are not imaginary.

DEAR ABBY: I host a lot of gatherings at my home and sometimes when I am on vacation. I put a lot of thought and effort into them. Some are themed parties, such as Valentine's Day or a luau.

Do you think it's rude for guests to show up 10 or more minutes early? I enjoy hosting, but I need the last few minutes before party time for ME, so I can get dressed, light candles, put out the food or just plain relax for a few minutes. Your thoughts, please.

WONDERING IN WESLEY CHAPEL, FLA.

DEAR WONDERING: I agree with you. Guests with good manners show up at the appointed time. While arriving 15 minutes late is acceptable, to arrive early is an imposition on one's host.

DEAR ABBY: My young married daughter, "Megan," has a problem with a neighbor. This woman has a family of her own, but is in Megan's business so much she is now actually taking my grandbaby out to eat at restaurants and seems to want people to think the baby is hers.

I have spoken to Megan about this. She doesn't like what is going on, but feels powerless to stop it. This neighbor does a lot for my daughter, and Megan doesn't want to hurt her feelings. What can she say that will put this woman in her place and make her realize that my daughter's family is not up for grabs?

OHIO MOM

DEAR MOM: Megan is NOT "powerless." As the mother of that child, all she has to do is start saying no. If the neighbor asks for an explanation, she should reply that what's going on is making her uncomfortable. Period. There is no need to be unkind about it— just firm.

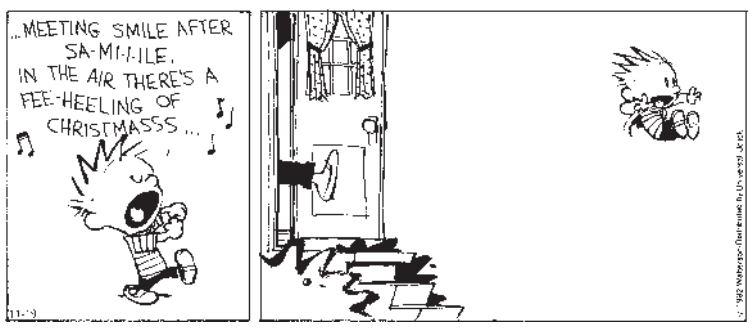
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

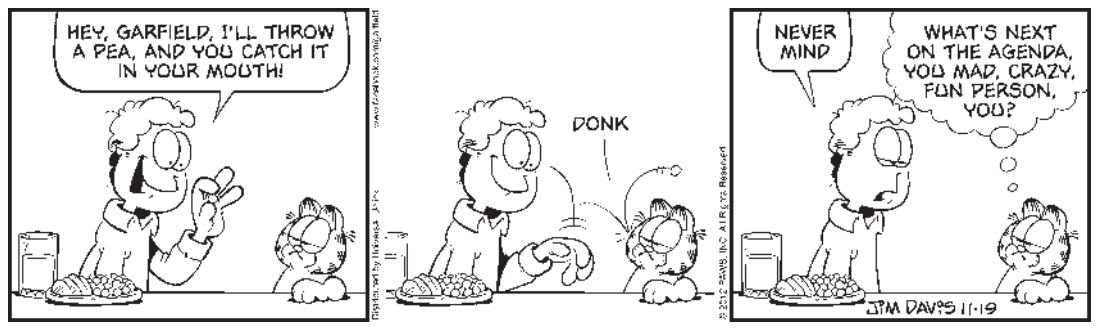
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


...MEETING SMILE AFTER SA-MI-I-LE, IN THE AIR THERE'S A FEE-HEELING OF CHRISTMASSS...
NOT THINKING ABOUT IT WON'T MAKE IT GO AWAY, YOU KNOW!

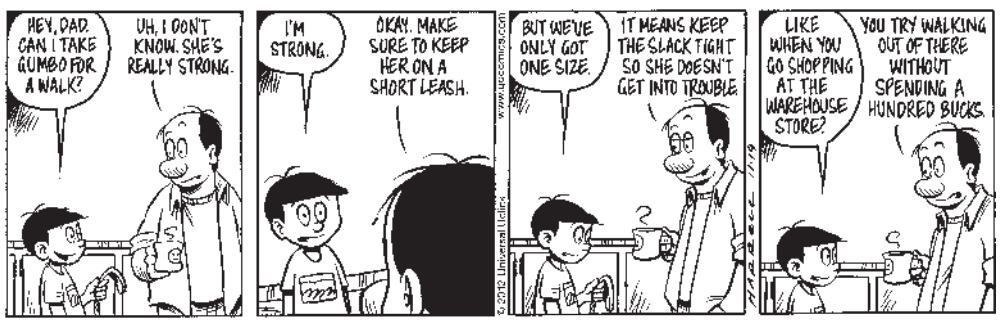
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


HEY, GARFIELD, I'LL THROW A PEA, AND YOU CATCH IT IN YOUR MOUTH!
DONK
NEVER MIND
WHAT'S NEXT ON THE AGENDA, YOU MAD, CRAZY, FUN PERSON, YOU?
JIM DAVIS 11-19

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY, DAD. CAN I TAKE GUMBO FOR A WALK?
UH, I DON'T KNOW. SHE'S REALLY STRONG.
I'M STRONG.
OKAY. MAKE SURE TO KEEP HER ON A SHORT LEASH.
BUT WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE SIZE.
IT MEANS KEEP THE SLACK TIGHT SO SHE DOESN'T GET INTO TROUBLE.
LIKE WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING AT THE WAREHOUSE STORE?
YOU TRY WALKING OUT OF THERE WITHOUT SPENDING A HUNDRED BUCKS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ARE YOU GOING TO ATTEND MY OBEDIENCE CLASS GRADUATION CEREMONY?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
THEY ACTUALLY HAND YOU MUTTS DIPLOMAS?
NO. THEY THROW OUR DIPLOMAS AND WE HAVE TO GO FETCH THEM.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

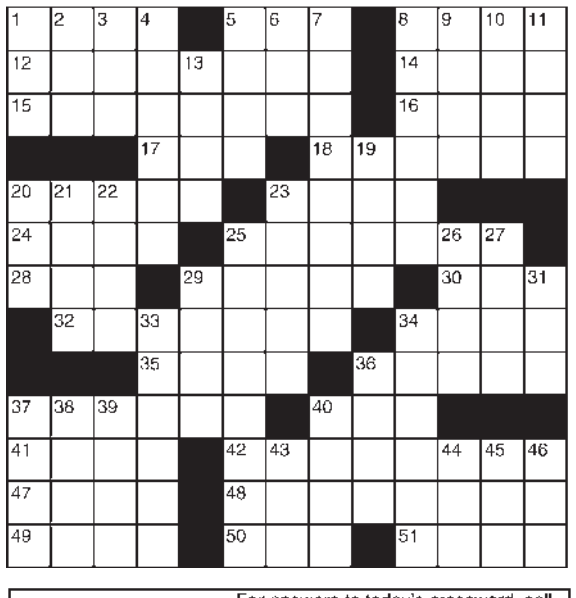
ACROSS
1 One of the Three Bears
5 Unhappy
8 Stare
12 Exhibit "A," e.g.
14 Figure-skating leap
15 Give a home a makeover
16 Actress Sorvino
17 18-wheeler
18 Toxin
20 Support for a painting
23 Plant with fronds
24 Small salamanders
25 Went back on a promise
28 Put (down)
29 Partners
30 Churchill's gesture
32 Changed the title
34 Tempo
35 Matterhorn's range
36 Bamboo-eating critter
37 Nervous system disorder
40 Relatives
41 Frau's mister
42 Hertz deal
47 Too
48 Geometric figure
49 Farm implement
50 Collection
51 Isn't well

DOWN
1 Apiece
2 "Hail, Caesar!"
3 Bowling target
4 Worships
5 Unseen problem
6 Performance
7 Intensified
8 Casino doings
9 Center of rotation
10 Nil
11 Verve
13 Satan's specialty
19 Raw minerals
20 Moray, for one
21 In the distance
22 Eyelid woe
23 Big parties
25 "O'er the — we watched ..."
26 Divisible by two
27 Out of play
29 Masculine
31 Greek vowel
33 Not wide
34 One of the bunch?
36 Pocket bread
37 Fellow
38 War, to Gen. Sherman
39 Approximately
40 Make a sweater
43 Before
44 Hollywood trickery, for short
45 The whole enchilada
46 In medias —

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	R	A	S	■	B	A	R	D	■	M	P	G
O	U	C	H	■	E	V	E	N	■	I	L	L
A	M	M	O	■	F	E	T	A	■	C	U	E
S	P	E	W	■	O	R	E	■	B	A	S	E
■	■	■	J	A	R	■	S	P	A	■	■	■
C	A	Y	U	S	E	■	T	R	I	P	P	Y
A	D	A	M	S	■	■	O	L	I	V	E	■
T	O	P	P	E	R	■	R	E	J	E	C	T
■	■	■	E	T	A	■	E	M	U	■	■	■
B	O	A	R	■	T	S	P	■	M	U	T	E
H	U	B	■	M	I	L	O	■	P	H	O	P
I	R	E	■	O	N	U	S	■	E	D	G	E
E	S	T	■	O	G	R	E	■	R	U	S	E

Saturday's answer 11-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodie Foster, 50; Meg Ryan, 51; Allison Janney, 53; Ann Curry, 56.

Happy Birthday: Embrace change and you will excel. Follow the path that intuitively feels right. Don't share your secrets or take part in gossip. Sticking to your game plan and executing what needs to be done with precision, integrity and hope will be your pathway to a better future. Speak from the heart and you will make a difference. Your numbers are 5, 13, 15, 23, 27, 31, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take action against bullying. Show your versatility, strength and courage to do what you say and honor any promise you make. Intuitive awareness will be key in making the best choice. A creative plan can help you advance. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Relationship trouble will escalate if you let your emotions take over and cause a stubborn no-win situation to develop. Getting along and listening to what others have to say will ensure that you get the opportunity to keep moving forward. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't settle for less when you can achieve so much more. Put your heart and soul into whatever you do. Someone you least expect will give you the help and support that can alter your direction in the future. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Honesty, integrity and doing what's right should be foremost on your mind. Stepping up and taking charge will help you express what you feel is necessary to achieve your personal goals. Reach for greater equality in your important relationships. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen very carefully. Respect and appreciation will be necessary if you want to get through the day with little adversity. Focus on love, generosity and making positive changes. Travel plans or discovering something or someone new will make your day. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Knowing exactly where you have to go and what you want to achieve will make life easier. Short trips and talking to people who can offer you pertinent information will help you achieve your goals and enlighten you regarding future prospects. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Pick a location or a subject that interests you. There is much to gain if you expand your horizons, awareness and friendships. Love is in the stars, and planning a romantic or social evening will lift your spirits and invite intimate interaction. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let your past be your teacher when it comes to financial matters. Conservative spending will enable you to stretch your dollar and afford the things that will be conducive to getting ahead. An old idea has the potential to become profitable. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep the peace by accepting the inevitable and working with what you have. Don't divulge information that affects someone's reputation. A partnership with someone striving to reach similar goals will lead to greater accomplishments. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Resurrect old ideas. People and places from your past will complement what you are trying to accomplish now. A move will help you put your plans into motion. Develop, present and market what you have to offer. Avoid unreliable people. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Research and find out what will work best for you rather than relying on someone else's opinion. Trust in your judgment. Happiness begins at home. Making your place comfortable and efficient will satisfy your needs. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be in a powerful position when it comes to marketing what you have to offer. Speak up and negotiate a deal that will satisfy you mentally, physically, emotionally and financially. Ask for something reasonable and you shall receive. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, proactive and imaginative. You act fast and aggressively.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		8		5		9		6
	7				9		4	
4		9				5		7
	9			3				
2			8	1	7			3
				4			1	
7		4				8		1
	5		6				7	
1		6		7		3		9

Difficulty Level ★ 11/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	4	3	1	6	7	9	5
9	3	6	7	5	2	8	4	1
1	5	7	8	9	4	3	2	6
7	1	8	6	4	9	2	5	3
2	9	5	1	8	3	6	7	4
6	4	3	5	2	7	1	8	9
4	6	1	9	7	8	5	3	2
5	7	9	2	3	1	4	6	8
3	8	2	4	6	5	9	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ACCOUNTANTS KNOW THEIR NUMBERS **Solution: 7 letters**

B	C	P	G	S	F	S	E	L	A	S	S	S	O	L
A	O	R	N	L	I	Ⓟ	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓝ	G	I	S	S	A
N	M	O	I	L	G	L	O	R	T	N	O	C	A	C
K	P	F	K	I	U	S	U	M	M	A	R	Y	L	C
R	L	I	N	K	R	T	U	T	O	T	A	L	A	O
U	I	T	A	S	E	E	R	B	R	S	A	L	R	U
P	A	E	B	R	A	E	V	A	T	U	U	A	Y	N
T	N	G	D	B	T	S	P	E	I	R	S	T	I	T
C	C	D	S	F	U	A	S	I	N	N	A	T	T	S
I	E	U	D	O	Y	S	X	I	N	U	I	C	E	D
E	N	B	R	R	A	O	I	E	S	G	E	N	T	E
S	T	T	O	M	E	M	A	N	S	T	R	S	G	T
W	S	L	C	S	E	T	T	L	E	D	G	E	R	A
A	L	D	E	A	D	L	I	N	E	S	D	D	A	I
L	E	A	R	N	F	M	E	T	S	Y	S	S	E	L

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Accounts, Adds, Assets, Assign, Assist, Banking, Bankruptcies, Bookkeeping, Budget, Business, Cents, Compliance, Control, Deadline, Detail, Fact, Figure, Forms, Laws, Learn, Ledger, Less, Loss, Name, Payroll, Plan, Profit, Records, Returns, Revenues, Salary, Sales, Settle, Skills, Subtract, Summary, System, Tally, Taxes, Total, Training, Trustee

Last Saturday's Answer: Trails

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Baker. Experienced in baking breads, cakes, pizza & pastries. Please call 287-6532.

---

(1) General Maintenance. Salary $5.55/hr. If interested please call Tinian Express Corp. at 285-7445 for more info.

Security Monitor. 2yrs exp.oper CCTV, Required Police Clearance and 2 latest Employers references. Mail resume: POB 7523 or email: msc@marianassecurity.com.

Building Maintenance (1)–knowledge of carpentry and electrical work. Apply at Kanda International, Inc. P.O. Box 503275. Tel. 235-2505.

FOR SALE

2009 Hyundai Tucson SUV. Excellent condition; Like new; Mileage 29K; Blue Book $12,800; Sale $11,500. Call 287-7676.

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Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Starting as low as... $29.99 without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
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WHATZIT Solution: Topsy-turvy

CURTWILL MANPOWER
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) DRIVER,
(1) COOK,
(1) CAREGIVER/HOUSE-WORKER
Applicants must have at least 3 years experience.
Please call: 789-6303

RUSTAN'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE SAIPAN
Job Vacancy Announcement

Operations Manager (1) – Graduate of a 4 year degree course in Accounting or Business Management. Must have a minimum of 5 years experience and has extensive knowledge in remittance business. The candidate must be knowledgeable in Anti Money Laundering Regulations, business planning & sales.

For applications email rfesaipan@hotmail.com no later than November 23, 2012.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Pacific Basin Insurance Company, Inc.
(1) INSURANCE CLERK

- EXCELLENT customer service skills
- STRONG written and oral communication skills
- Must have the ability to multi-task
- Ability to speak multi language is a plus
- Salary: $5.55 to $6.00 per hour.

Applications may be picked up at Pacific Basin Insurance Company, Ground Floor, Oceanside Plaza building, Garapan.

Pacific Basin Insurance Company, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
MISA ENTERPRISES, INC.

ASSISTANT MANAGER (1): Be able to assist the General Manager in the supervision of the business establishment such as: Management of financial books, rental client agreement, building maintenance such as answering tenants' complain & resolve problems. Confer with manager to review financial statements, activity reports and other performance data to determine areas needing cost reduction and improvement. Allocate funds; authorize expenditures necessary for building maintenance. Delegate authority and assign responsibilities to designate personnel for building maintenance, be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial and operational status. Other related duties as Assistant Manager.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to provide current police clearance. With reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Building 4, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. No phone calls.

WANTED TO HIRE

WAITER/WAITRESS
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be 21 yrs. old & above
- 2 years work related experience required

COOK
2 years work related experience required
- CW1 is accepted

Walk-in applicants only, with picture.
No phone calls.
Deadline: November 23, 2012

Country House/ Moby Dick Restaurant

MARFEGA TRADING CO., INC.
Dba: Islander Rent A Car & ASKS Fashion & Salon
P.O. Box 502356 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: 11/15/2012 **Closing Date:** 11/22/2012

One (1) Dress Maker, One (1) Branch Manager-Car Rental, One (1) Accounting Manager, One (1) Commercial Cleaner, One (1) Accountant, Two (2) Sales & Marketing Associates & One (1) HR & Admin Specialist

Applicants must be fully qualified, with valid Police & Health Clearance, clean driver's record, willing to work flexible hours, multi-tasking & assigned in other locations of the company. Starting rate is minimum wage or up depending on the qualifications i.e. w/ training certificates, job related experiences, posses a high school, associate degree, college diploma or foreign equivalent. For inquiry or interview, please contact Ms. Aileen Arnold-Soriano at 288-0373

Fax your resume at (670) 288-0389 or email at islandereprocess@yahoo.com

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

Four (4) TECHNICIANS-AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Install, service and repair of Central Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
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- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer based Control System

Other Requirements:
- Minimum 10-year work experience required
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E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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General Maintenance (2): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

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Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant I Garapan, Hotel Street. No phone calls.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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- Must be a college graduate in Finance and Accounting.
- With at least 5 years of related work experience in food and beverage financial reporting and general accounting procedures.
- Good analytical ability and proficient in Peachtree Software.
- Must be able to work under pressure and work flexible hours.
- CPA not required.

Applications may be obtained at Joe's Bar & Steakhouse Capital office located in Garapan. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. Application deadline is December 3, 2012, NLT 5:00 p.m. Background check is required.

For more information, please contact 483-4258.

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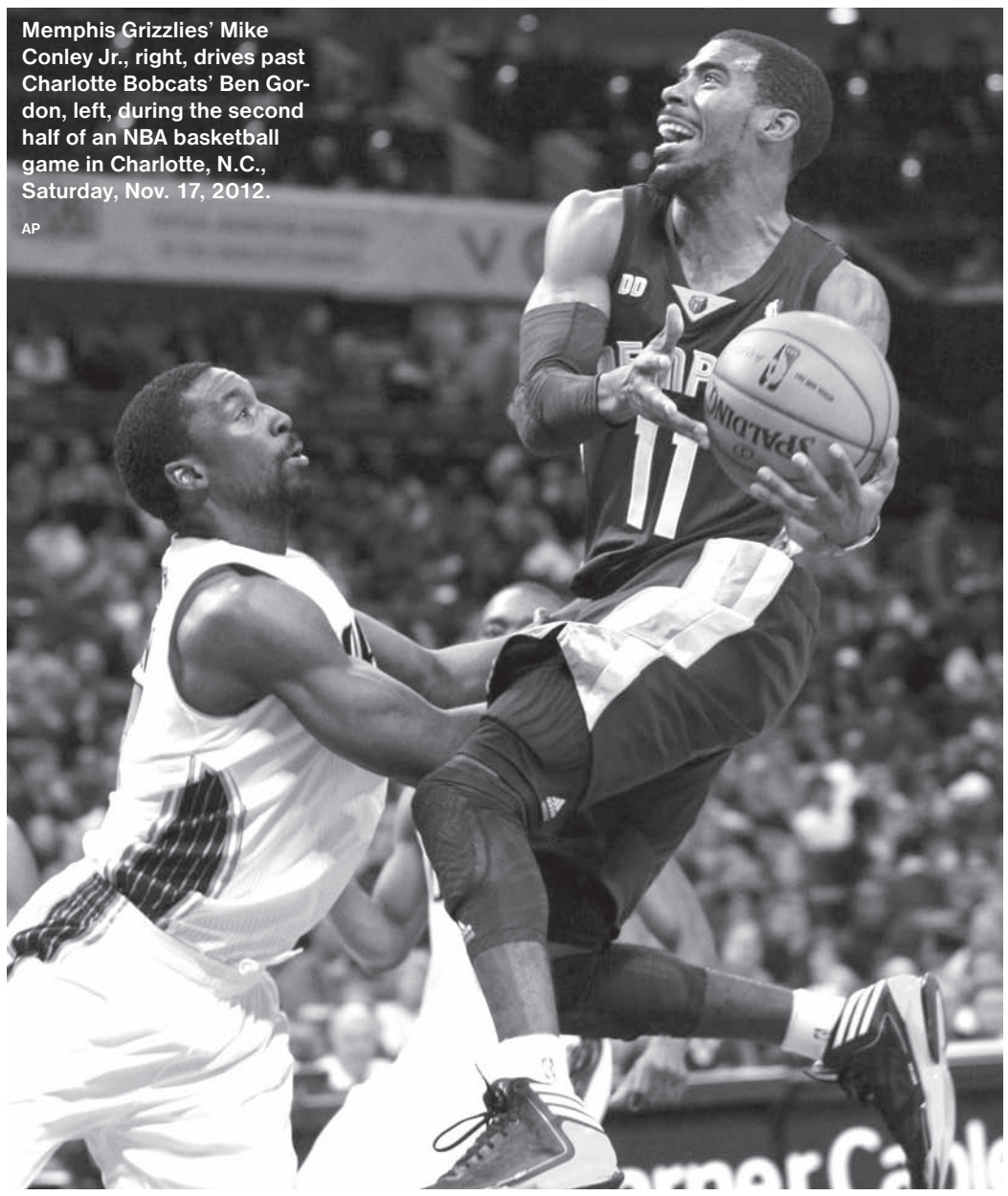
Streaking Grizzlies beat Bobcats, 94-87

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)—Mike Conley scored 20 points and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Charlotte Bobcats 94-87 on Saturday night for their eighth consecutive victory.

Zach Randolph added 18 points and 12 rebounds, and three other players scored in double figures for the Grizzlies, who own the NBA's best record at 8-1. Rudy Gay had 16 points and Marc Gasol and Tony Allen scored 12 apiece.

Memphis led by as many as 17 points in the fourth quarter.

Byron Mullens scored 18 points and Kemba Walker added 17 for the Bobcats, who cut the Grizzlies' lead to five points three times in the final period, the last at 92-87 on Bismack Biyombo's dunk with 13 seconds remaining.



Memphis Grizzlies' Mike Conley Jr., right, drives past Charlotte Bobcats' Ben Gordon, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012.

AP

Celtics 107, Raptors 89

In Boston, Rajon Rondo tied his season high with 20 assists, and Jason Terry scored 20 points to help the Celtics get the victory.

Rondo appeared at full strength after sitting out a loss at Brooklyn on Thursday night because of a sprained right ankle. He had seven assists in the first quarter and 11 at halftime, extending his streak of consecutive games with double-digit assists to 33.

Rondo's streak is the third-longest in NBA history and puts him within four games of tying John Stockton. Magic Johnson holds the record at 46 consecutive games with 10 or more assists.

Mavericks 103, Cavaliers 95

In Cleveland, O.J. Mayo scored 19 points and the Mavericks used a pair of 9-0 runs in the fourth quarter to secure the road win.

Chris Kaman scored 15 points while Vince Carter and Darren Collison added 14 apiece for Dallas, which won on the road for the second time in six games.

Kyrie Irving, who left briefly in the third quarter with a finger injury, led Cleveland with 26 points, but the Cavaliers lost their fifth straight game.

Mayo hit a 3-pointer and a layup down the stretch to spark Dallas, which outscored the Cavaliers 28-22 in the final period. The Mavericks had six players score in double figures.

Jazz 83, Wizards 76

In Washington, Al Jefferson scored 21 points, Gordon Hayward added 15 in his first game as a reserve this season, and the Jazz kept the Wizards winless.

The Jazz committed 19 turnovers but pulled away in the fourth quarter while closing a four-game road trip with a sloppy performance—and got away with it because they were playing the Wizards. Washington became only the second team in NBA history to start 0-8 in back-to-back seasons.

The game was tied at 65 early in the fourth when the Wizards went cold, scoring only 13 points in the final period. The Jazz held Washington scoreless for more than 4 minutes while building their first double-digit lead of the game. Utah had nine offensive rebounds in the quarter.

Clippers 101, Bulls 80

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored 12 of his 26 points in the final six minutes and grabbed 10 rebounds, helping the Clippers earn their fifth straight victory.

Reserve Jamal Crawford scored 17 of his 22 points in the second quarter for the Clippers, who lead the Pacific Division with a 7-2 mark. It's their best record after nine games since 2005-06, when they won nine of their first 11, finished 47-35 and came within one victory of the Western Conference finals.

Los Angeles' reserves outscored the starters 35-18 in the first half and 53-48 for the game.

Heat 97, Suns 88

In Phoenix, Chris Bosh scored 24 points on 9-of-11 shooting, ailing LeBron James added 21 and the Heat closed a six-game road trip with a victory over the Suns.

The Heat, playing without Dwyane Wade for the second game in a row because of a left foot injury, led by as many as 15 in the third quarter and were up by nine with 5½ minutes to play. The Suns cut it to two before Miami scored the game's final seven points.

James, who missed the morning shootaround with flu-like symptoms, made only 8 of 20 shots but still reached 20 points for the 11th time in 11 games this season. James' effort helped the Heat finish 4-2 on the road trip.

Spurs 126, Nuggets 100

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili had 20 points and the Spurs set a season high for points.

DeJuan Blair added 19 points and Danny Green had 15 for San Antonio (8-2). Tony Parker and Tim Duncan each scored 14 points while playing 25 and 23 minutes, respectively.

Danilo Gallinari scored 15 and Kenneth Faried finished with 14 for Denver (4-6), which has lost three straight games for the second time this season.

Bucks 117, Hornets 113

In Milwaukee, Monta Ellis scored six of his 22 points in the final 2 minutes to help Milwaukee hold off New Orleans.

Brandon Jennings also had 22 points, and Mike Dunleavy added 17 for Milwaukee, which improved to 6-2 in its best start since opening 9-1 in 2001-02.

Top overall draft pick Anthony Davis had a season-high 28 points and tied his season high with 11 rebounds for New Orleans. Ryan Anderson added 20 points for the Hornets.

Kareem's skyhook captured in bronze

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's skyhook has been captured in bronze for future generations of basketball fans.

Staples Center unveiled a nearly 16-foot-tall statue of the top scorer in NBA history Friday night, immortalizing Jabbar's famed hook shot alongside statues of fellow Los Angeles Lakers greats Magic Johnson and Jerry West.

The 65-year-old Abdul-Jabbar pronounced himself humbled and grateful during a ceremony attended by numerous NBA greats ranging from Johnson and West to Pat Riley and Elgin Baylor—and even Lakers superfan Jack Nicholson.

"Having lived my life and had the experiences I've had, I can understand now what a man like Lou Gehrig means when he considers himself the luckiest man on the face of the earth," Abdul-Jabbar said.

Abdul-Jabbar is depicted in his signature goggles, wristbands and the standard 1980s short-shorts below his No. 33 jersey. The 7-foot-2 center pulled a braided cord to drop a curtain revealing the statue to hundreds of cheering fans, who gathered under threatening clouds for the ceremony.

"I'm glad we got here before the pigeons got to it," Abdul-Jabbar said with a smile.

By any measure, Abdul-Jabbar is among the most significant figures in basketball history. His 38,387 points are the most in NBA history, and he spent two decades in the league with the Milwaukee Bucks and the Lakers, winning a record six MVP awards while setting records at the time for games played, total minutes, field goals, blocked shots, defensive rebounds and fouls.

The former Lew Alcindor arrived at UCLA in 1965 from his native New York City's Power Memorial High School. He won three NCAA titles with coach John Wooden, who received special mention while Abdul-Jabbar thanked the biggest figures in his basketball life.

"You never understand how important these people are until they're not with you," Abdul-Jabbar said. "With coach Wooden, I understood immediately."

The No. 1 pick in the 1969 draft won an NBA title with Oscar Robertson and the Bucks, who traded him to Los Angeles in 1975. The Lakers didn't break through until Johnson arrived in 1979, immediately teaming up for the first of five championships in nine seasons with the advent of Showtime.

"Thank you for taking us on a ride with you," Johnson said. "It was all because of your great leadership."

Riley recalled his first conversation with Abdul-Jabbar after he became the Lakers' coach.

"He said, 'Pat, you won't have to worry about me,"' Riley said. "He was great, and he has been there for us his whole career. He was our protector, and he was the one who carried us."

Abdul-Jabbar did much of his scoring with the famed shot depicted in his statue—including the basket with which he passed Wilt Chamberlain to become the NBA's career scoring leader on April 5, 1984, in Las Vegas. Former Milwaukee radio play-by-play announcer Eddie Doucette attended the statue unveiling and recounted the night he coined the term "skyhook" while Abdul-Jabbar played for the Bucks.

Abdul-Jabbar also received praise from several speakers for his humanitarian work and dedication to education in his post-basketball life. He also has written books and worked on documentary films.

And though the Lakers insist there are no hard feelings with their sometimes-prickly ex-superstar, Abdul-Jabbar ruefully recalled a minor ruckus he started a few years ago by complaining that Johnson and West had been honored with Staples Center statues before him.

"I had a little too much to say about it not happening right away," Abdul-Jabbar said. "But they were patient with me."

Julius Erving, Bill Walton, Bill Sharman, Jamaal Wilkes, Kurt Rambis, A.C. Green and James Worthy also attended the ceremony. NBA Commissioner David Stern, former President Bill Clinton and Abdul-Jabbar's son, Amir, sent congratulatory videos.

"Kareem was the most selfless super player that I've ever seen in my life," West said.

AP

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's statue joins those of fellow Lakers' greats Magic Johnson and Jerry West.

Miguel Cabrera, Buster Posey win MVP awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Miguel Cabrera has a Most Valuable Player award to go with his Triple Crown. And Buster Posey has an MVP prize to put alongside his second World Series ring.

The pair of batting champions won baseball's top individual honors Thursday by large margins

Cabrera, the first Triple Crown winner in 45 years, won the AL MVP by receiving 22 of 28 first-place votes and 362 points from a panel of Baseball Writers' Association of America.

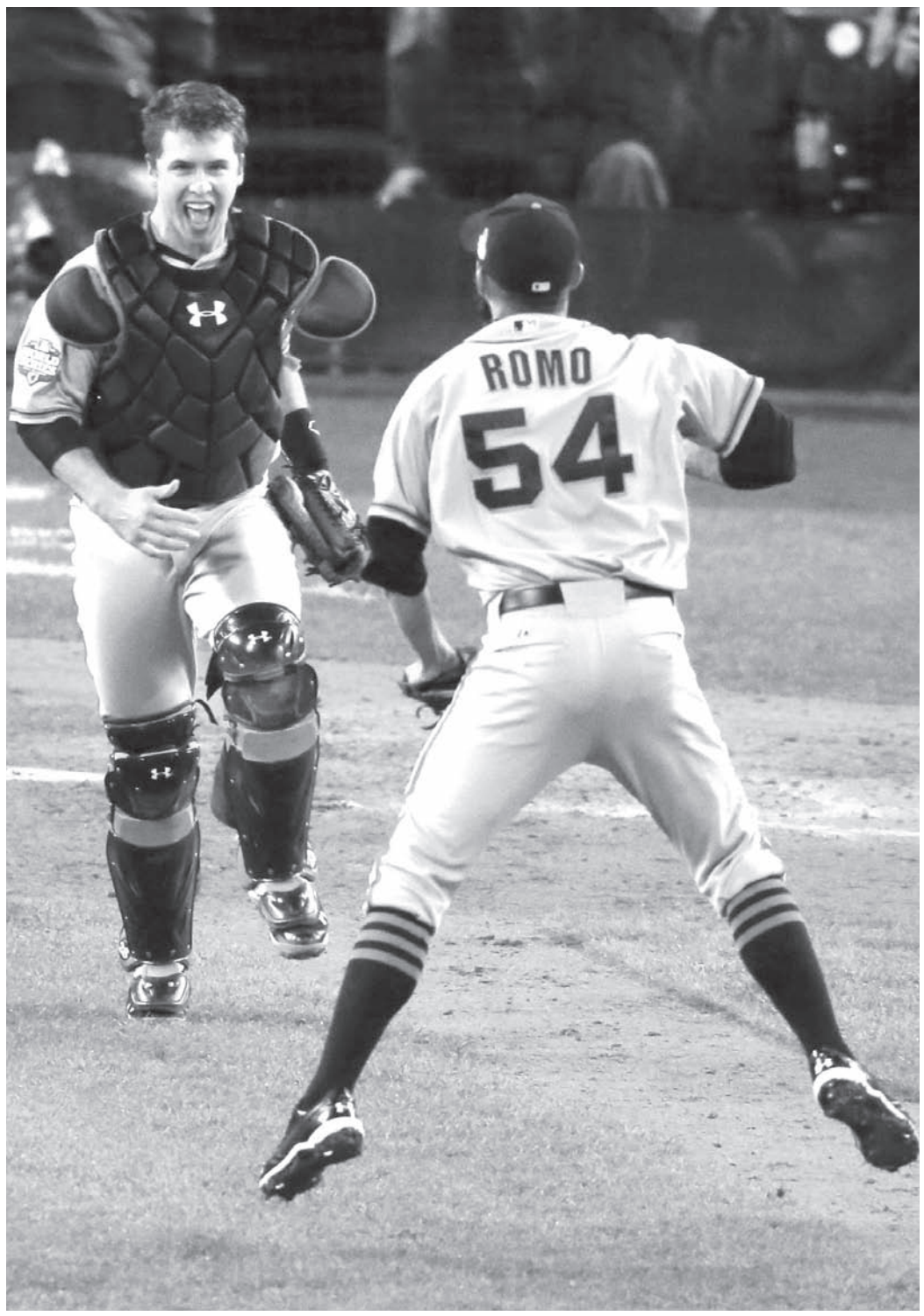
The Detroit third baseman easily beat Los Angeles Angels rookie center fielder Mike Trout, who had six firsts and 281 points.

Cabrera hit .330 with 44 homers and 139 RBIs to become the first Triple Crown winner since Boston's Carl Yastrzemski in 1967. Cabrera also led the league with a .606 slugging percentage for the AL champion Tigers.

Some of the more sabermetric-focused fans supported Trout, who hit .326 with 30 homers and 83 RBIs, and he led the majors with 129 runs and 49 steals and topped all players in WAR - Wins Above Replacement. Trout won AL Rookie of the Year earlier in the week.

"I was a little concerned. I thought the new thing about computer stuff, I thought Trout's going to win because they put his numbers over me," Cabrera said. "I was like relax. ... if he wins, it's going to be fair because he had a great season."

His victory is a win for the traditional statistics.



AP

San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey and San Francisco Giants relief pitcher Sergio Romo (54) celebrate after striking out Detroit Tigers third baseman Miguel Cabrera (24) to win Game 4 of baseball's World Series Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012, in Detroit.

"At the end of the game, it's going to be the same baseball played back in the day," Cabrera said.

Posey, at a charity event at his mother's school in Leesburg, Va., followed the AL debate and Googled to find out the winner.

"I think it intrigued everybody," he said. "As a fan of the game, it was a fun race to watch."

With three fewer hits or two less homers, Cabrera would have fallen short of the Triple Crown. The last four Triple Crown winners have been voted MVP, including Mickey Mantle in 1956 and Frank Robinson in 1966.

"I think winning the Triple Crown had a lot to do with me winning this honor," he said.

Cabrera became the second straight Detroit player voted MVP, following pitcher Justin Verlander in 2011, and was the first Venezuelan to earn the honor. Countryman Pablo Sandoval took home World Series MVP honors last month.

Before the season, Cabrera switched from first base to third to make way for Prince Fielder, who signed with Detroit as a free agent.

"I focused too much in spring training about defense, defense, defense," Cabrera said. "I forgot a little bit about hitting, about getting in the cage like I normally do."

In spring training, Posey's focus was just to get back on the field. His 2011 season was cut short by a collision with the Marlins' Scott Cousins on May 25 that resulted in a fractured bone in Posey's lower left leg and three torn ankle ligaments.

Posey not only returned, he became the first catcher in 70 years to win the NL batting title and helped San Francisco win its second World Series championship in three seasons.

"I definitely have a deeper appreciation for being able to play baseball," he said. "I've seen that it can be taken away quick."

The first catcher in four decades to win the NL award, Posey got 27 of 32 firsts and 422 points to outdistance 2011 winner Ryan Braun of Milwaukee, who was second with 285 points.

Pittsburgh outfielder Andrew McCutchen (245) was third, followed by St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina (241).

Posey, a boyish-looking 25, was the 2010 NL Rookie of the Year as the Giants won their first World Series since 1954. This year he set career highs with a .336 average, 24 homers and 103 RBIs as San Francisco won again.

Posey took the NL batting title after teammate Melky Cabrera requested a rules change that disqualified him. Cabrera, who hit .346, missed the final 45 games of the regular-season while serving a suspension for a positive testosterone test and would have won the batting crown if the rule hadn't been changed.

Ernie Lombardi had been the previous catcher to capture the NL batting championship, in 1942.

"I think anybody that has caught before understands the grind of catching, not only the physical, the nicks, the wear and tear of squatting for nine innings night in, day out, but just the mental grind of working a pitching staff," Posey said. "It's demanding."

Bears' Cutler to miss 49ers game with concussion

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—The Chicago Bears were bracing for an injury to Jay Cutler long before the season started.

Now, they'll see just how prepared they are.

Cutler will miss Monday's game at San Francisco because of a concussion, leaving the Bears without their starting quarterback. The team announced the decision Friday, meaning Jason Campbell is the likely starter against the 49ers.

Star receiver Brandon Marshall said Cutler is getting better, but he also said there's a bigger picture that goes beyond this week's game.

"Our life, our health, is more important than football," Marshall said. "I think we'll get Jay back sooner than later."

For now, the Bears believe they have enough to get by. They brought in Campbell in the offseason for a situation like this, and he found out before Thursday's practice that he'll be starting.

"You definitely don't want to see anyone get hurt or injured in this business," said Campbell, who's made 70 starts in his career with Washington and Oakland. "We understand it is a tough sport. Sometimes, things like that happen."

Coach Lovie Smith would not say if Cutler will make the trip to San Francisco. Players need to be cleared by team physicians and an independent neurological consultant before they can return, under NFL safety protocols. It's possible that the Bears could hold him out even if he gets the OK from doctors.

When asked about that, all Smith would say is: "He's not playing this week, and that's about as much as I'm going to go into it."

He added Cutler is getting better and the Bears hope to have him back for the game against Minnesota on Nov. 25.

The Bears will also be missing defensive end Shea McClellin because of a concussion. They might get receiver Alshon Jeffery back from a hand injury. He's missed the past four games but went through a full practice on Friday.

Cutler's status was in question after he sat out the second half of Sunday night's loss to Houston. The Bears believe he was injured on a helmet-to-helmet hit by the Texans' Tim Dobbins, who was fined $30,000 by the league, late in the second quarter.

Cutler initially did not show any symptoms and took seven more snaps in the first half. It wasn't until halftime that the symptoms showed up, and the Bears went the rest of the way with Campbell. They also signed veteran Josh McCown this week, giving them a backup behind Campbell.

The 49ers, meanwhile, could be without starting quarterback Alex Smith, who suffered a concussion of his own last week.

The concussion isn't the first for Cutler. He missed a game after being sacked nine times in the first half of a loss at the New York Giants in October 2010. Last year, Cutler broke his right thumb late in a win over San Diego that put Chicago at 7-3. His replacement, Caleb Hanie, struggled and the Bears lost five of their last six.

That cost general manager Jerry Angelo his job. Phil Emery replaced him and retooled the roster, landing Marshall in a blockbuster trade with Miami and addressing several other areas—including backup quarterback by signing Campbell to a one-year deal.

"I think when you look at what happened to the Bears last year, I think that's the reason why he's here," Marshall said. "He's more than capable and we're fortunate to have a starting quarterback as our backup."

That's why the Bears believe they can get by without Cutler, at least for now. They have an experienced backup and don't expect the same sort of meltdown.

"I understand a year ago what happened, but at the same time, I've got to do what I've got to do within the system, different football team," Campbell said.

The Bears lead the NFC North at 7-2, one of the top records in the NFC. But they are in the tightest division in the league, with Green Bay at 6-3, the Vikings at 6-4 and Detroit still in the picture at 4-5.

Campbell, who threw for 94 yards last week, started six games for Oakland a year ago before breaking his collarbone. He has completed more than 60 percent of his attempts and thrown for 14,511 yards since he entered the league in 2005.

"I think both of them have ability to make any throw on the field," said 49ers cornerback Carlos Rogers, Campbell's friend and teammate in Washington.

Marshall said Cutler is more mobile and Campbell a bit more comfortable in the pocket.

"It's the opposite, you would think Campbell would be like Vick," he said. "But Jay Cut is like (Michael) Vick, and Jason is more of a pocket guy, I would say. Cut likes to run around a little bit, so that's a little opposite. But because of the picture we paint on black quarterbacks, it's supposed to be a guy who runs around a lot, but Jason does a good job in the pocket, really reading coverage, really taking control of the offense. We're fortunate to have him."

Until this week, Campbell really hadn't worked with the starters in practice since training camp.

How fast he can get on the same page with the rest of the starters remains to be seen, even if the players don't expect any problems there.

In particular, it'll be interesting to see how the dynamic between the star receiver and the quarterback changes. Cutler has a long history with Marshall from their days in Denver and has been leaning on him.

"I can't make up for four years that they've been together," Campbell said. "But at the same time, you can see that on the field, when they play together, they see certain things together. A lot of that comes from the experience that they have from back in their days in Denver. But for me, just talking to B, we'll pretty much do what we do. At the same time, if we see things, then we see things. But we're not going to be trying to push the envelope on things that are just not there."

Rotary U16, U20 all-star games tip off tonight

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan is capping off its 21st Annual Basketball League edition with a pair of all-star matches featuring its U16 and U20 age divisions starting at 5:30pm tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The U16 teams will battle it out in the opening pairing followed by the U20 feature at 6:30pm.

U16's A group is made up of Rollers 1's Jaron Ano, Prince Factor, Emerson Feria, J.P. Iglesias, Irvyn Malonzo, and C.J. Morales with Hi-5's Michael Ariaga, Jethro Cruz, Wilfredo Francisco, and Elnathan Wong along with CNMI girls national team members Madeline Alegre and Glorily Williams.

Hi-5's Eric Atalig will be coaching the squad.

Group B includes Matson Consulting Proa's William Camacho, Carlo Deleon, Eldiberto Javier III, Ankie Manalili, Kobee Mendoza, and Tyler Palacios with Rollers 2's J.C. Cadua, Sam Darag, Mike Espinosa, and Jun Fidelino and CNMI girls' Rachel Abrams and Kyla Ito.

Proa's Edsell Mendoza will front team B.

U20's A faction is comprised of the Sonics' Bryl Alegre, Jack Aranda, Nevin Salem. and Jimmy Tudela with Rollers 1's John Darag, Erik Dela Rosa, and Ralph Francisco, Oleai Ol'Aces' Joseph Aguilar and Ryan Ichihara, LD Prime's Lawrence Rollon and Agape Torchbearers' Allen Yu.

Sonics' Omar Ojoste will be coaching the group.

U20's Team B features Mariana Resort Proa's Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz, Ichitaro Faisao, Frank Mettao, and Jason Palacios with Rollers 2's Mike Espinosa, Dixon Kwon and Irvyn Malonzo, Hi-5's Emerson Feria, Kagman's Jason Lampkin and Jesse Santos, and Agape's Joe Yang.

Proa's Ed Manalili will be holding the clipboard for Team B.

BACK-TO-BACK

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open man," said Ojoste after the awards ceremony.

"We were well prepared coming into the game because these guys put in their work during practice as they did all season, and I'm proud of them for achieving their goal…finishing undefeated was also an added treat. We want to thank our sponsor Jesse Tudela and all of the parents and supporters that came to cheer us on as well," added Ojoste.

Ojoste also tipped his cap to Proa for proving to be a worthy rival, though his Sonics maintained just under a 10-point advantage for the majority of the game.

Proa actually held the upper hand, 12-10, in the opening 10 minutes as both teams set a defensive tone out of the gate.

Proa's Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz thrice found the bottom of the net and received a couple baskets in support from the league scoring champ Ichitaro Faisao, while the Sonics remained patient and managed four free throws on the other end to keep close in pursuit.

The Sonics then gashed Proa with an 18-point surge in the second quarter to claim control, 28-19 at the half.

Jack Aranda and Melvin Cadiang teamed up for 10 checks to turn the table.

Proa tried to mount a comeback after intermission and trimmed it to 6, 33-39, heading into the final period, but the Sonics were quick to reclaim their three-possession advantage early in the fourth quarter and rode it to the final buzzer.

Nevin Salem came off the bench in the clutch and delivered 8 big points that was complemented by four pressure-packed free throws by Cadiang in the final minute that helped secure the win.

Salem finished as the top scorer for the champs with a dozen markers and received most valuable player honors in the finals after the game.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Richard Cody was in attendance to present the awards along with Rotarianne Kelly Butcher and Basketball Association of the NMI's talent officer Ellias Rangamar.

In the consolation match, Hi-5 was automatically declared the 2nd runners-up as a result of a no-show by Rollers 1. More details about the other awardees of both the U20 and U16 divisions will be released later this week.

Rollers 1 did not attend because the group is preparing to compete in Guam's Take Care-Thanksgiving Hoopfest tournament next week.

Hi-5 raised some eyebrows this year for coming on very strong down the homestretch. The team won the last two games heading into the playoffs and upset third-ranked Rollers 2 for a berth into the semifinals where they came up just short against Proa, 61-58, in a hard-fought battle last Thursday.

That game started out with Hi-5 clinging to a slim 11-9 lead in the first quarter thanks largely to a trio of free throws by Richard Hofschneider, but Proa awoke in the second period and moved in front, 27-22, at halftime as Faisao and Delon Guerrero-Diaz hooked up for 11 markers as Proa's defense limited Hi-5 to only 11 points.

Proa then stretched it to a double-digit margin, 46-33, in the third quarter with another impressive defensive performance as Deleon Guerrero-Diaz added another 6 checks that was complemented by 5 points from Ethan Manalili.

Proa got a little sloppy in the end, but managed to convert three late free throws and hung on for the win.

Hi-5 had its chances, but missed too many opportunities earlier in the game and ran out of time as it began to mount a late comeback.

Faisao's 16 points topped the boxscore, while Leo Cristobal led Hi-5 with 11.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Sonics 59 – Salem 12, Cadiang 10, Deguzman 8, Caro 7, Alegre 6, Tudela 4, A. Palacios 4, Villanueva 3.

Mariana Resort Proa 53 – Deleon-Guerreo Diaz 17, Mettao 15, Faisao 8, Jas Palacios 6, Manalili 5, Jac Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-12, 28-19, 39-33, 59-53.

SEMIFINAL

Mariana Resort Proa 61 – Faisao 16, Deleon Guerrero-Diaz 14, Mettao 7, Jas. Palacios 6, Manalili 5, Villagomez 3, Yap 2, Taitano 2, Sanarez 2, Jac. Palacios 2.

Hi-5 – Cristobal 11, Macahito 10, Je Villanueva 9, Hockett 8, Feria 8, Hofschneider 5.

Scoring by quarters: 9-11, 27-22, 46-33, 61-58.

KANOA

From Page 28

after routing Tappers, 34-9.

Lily Willims and Kaylani Lebria teamed up in the demolition, scoring 18 and 14 points, recpectively. Jaymark De Guzman drilled the other two points for Ball So Hard.

Paul Mariano led Tapper's losing cause, making 5 markers, while Serafina Rogoyawa and Jahnelle Francisco added 2 markers apiece.

Ball So Hard had the game in the bag right in the first half when it led after the first 10 minutes of play, 24-2.

The battle for the other semis ticket in the winner's bracket was a close one with Cool Kids Only escaping past Posse, 33-31.

Rachel Abrams top-scored for Cool Kids Only, drilling 14, including the team's last 2 points. Madeleine Alegre added 9, while Lalaine Pagarao and Eric dela Rosa chipped in 6 and 4, respectively.

Cool Kids Only and Ball So Hard were scheduled to duel for the first finals berth last Saturday, but results of the game winner's bracket semis match were unavailable at press time.

Posse and Tappers were also set to collide in the loser's bracket semis last weekend, following their separate victories last Thursday. The winner of the loser's bracket semis was slated to face the loser of the Cool Kids Only-Ball So Hard tiff in the battle for the final championship seat.

Posse stayed alive after eliminating 256, 31-14, while Tappers remained in contention after ousting Midsummer, 30-17.

Jimmy Tudela paced Posse with his 12 markers, while Yenina Diaz and Coquina Teregeyo logged 9 and 8, respectively. Anne Padilla added 2 points. No 256 player scored in twin digits, as Jowanda Rasa managed only 8 points.

Tudela nailed all his 12 points in the first half to lift Posse to an 18-2 advantage and they never looked back from thereon.

In the other loser's bracket match, Rogoyawa scored 12 points to power Tappers to the 13-point win.

Rogoyawa recorded 8 of her total output in the first 10 minutes of play to give the Tappers a 14-10 halftime lead. Rogoyawa added 4 more and drew help from Francisco and Paul Mariano in the second half en route to the double-digit winning margin.

Meanwhile, the finals of the 3-on-3 caging is set for this Thursday with the finalist in the winner's bracket earning a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round.

LADY

From Page 28

field, but it did so deservingly as they clearly put in the most hardwork in practice three times a week during the season.

They are losing seniors Abrams, Ada, Jeralyn Castillo, Francisco, Guevarra, Lizardo, and Williams, but have picked up Pena and Race to help fill the void.

MCS battled back through the lower bracket after falling to the eventual champs in the curtain raiser last Friday, 45-69, but simply ran out of gas in the final stage.

Still the nine-player group showed resilience by making it to the championship after being put in a hole from the start.

The Lady Knights knocked off the Tinian High School Lady Stallions, 56-33, and then ousted the Saipan Southern High Lady Manta Rays, 85-56, before punching its finals ticket with a, 66-47, victory over the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus.

MHS had a much easier route to the main event and only had to go through KHS in the upper bracket semifinals on Saturday morning, which they did with ease, 68-21, and then merely had to wait and see who its next victim was going to be.

In the finals, MHS assumed control right away, 22-7, in the opening period and fed its center Rachel Abrams who paced the group with 8 points.

She added 4 more early in the second quarter before taking a seat and Jeradline Castillo delivered three baskets to lead a plethora of others as the Lady Dolphins motored further ahead, 44-19, at the half.

Lady Knights' Keolani Lebria captained the squad with 8 markers in the first half, but MHS' depth was already showing signs of wearing down the contenders.

MHS picked up right where it left off after the break and pulled away, 61-29, heading into the final canto.

Abrams remained at the helm and provided three more baskets in the push.

Then the Lady Dolphins called in the reserves during the fourth quarter as everybody on the team got to contribute offensively.

MHS 79 – Abrams 18, Jeraly Castillo 14, Williams 7, Jerald Castillo 6, Gatchalian 6, Pena 5, Francsico 4, Lizardo 4, Ada 3, Badilles 2, Guevarra 2, Lumabi 2, Ocampo 2, Olivos 2, Race 2.

MCS 35 – Lebria 13, Che 7, R Kautz 6, M Kautz 4, Taylor 4, Demapan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-7, 44-19, 61-29, 79-35.

ACKERMAN

From Page 28

half of the bracket, 6-3, 6-3. Lee arranged a semis duel with Ackerman after surviving Colin Ramsey in the first round, 6-4, 1-6, 10-7.

In the upper bracket, Ren stunned top-ranked Brian Tuncap, 6-4, 6-4, to advance to the finals against Ackerman. Tuncap automatically made it to the semis after drawing a bye in the first round, while Ren gained a Final Four seat, following a 6-1, 7-5 win over Luther Lizama.

The girls U15 singles finale was also done after only two sets with top seed Negahr Rastguiy beating Carol Lee, 6-1, 6-0,

Rastguiy eased her way to the finals after shutting out Ami Tsukagoshi and sweeping Isabel Heras, 6-2, 6-0. Lee took the other finals berth after defeating Liza Atalig, 6-1, 6-2, and pulling off an upset over second-ranked Camdyn Nadler of Guam, 6-2, 6-0.

Joining Rastguiy and Ackerman in the champions list were Thea Minor, Rai Aditya, and Jireh Warren.

Warren and Aditya claimed the U10 titles with the former ruling the girls division after sweeping Couke Kaga, 8-4; Hanna Ojima, 8-1; and Reiko Ojima, 8-1, in the round-robin tournament.

Aditya brought home the boys U10 crown after outclassing Tony Atalig in the finals at the Fiesta Resort & Spa tennis court yesterday, 9-7. Aditya made it to the finals, following an impressive 8-0 win over Rintaro Miyawaki, while Atalig gained the other championship berth after downing Mondo Taniguchi, 8-4.

Minor won the girls U18 tiara after thumping Mikayla Lopez, 6-1, 7-5, and Alina Ishikawa, 6-1, 6-0, in a round-robin tournament. Lopez shut out Ishikawa, 6-0, 6-0, to settle for runner-up honors.

Meanwhile, the title games in the girls and boys U12 were being played yesterday afternoon, while the boys U18 finals has been moved from last night to this Friday.

Christian Miller booked the first finals berth in the boys U18 after ousting Jake Lee, while Rafael Jones and Amami Sakano were dueling for the last finals seat yesterday afternoon.

In the boys U12 finale, it was Alex Park versus Robby Schorr, as the former eliminated Ken Song yesterday morning and the latter ousted Joshua Abragan in the upper bracket semis pairing.

Mimi Sakano and Ami Tsukagoshi disputed the girls U12 tiara yesterday after making it past Malika Miyawaki and Hannah Nelson in the semis, respectively.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	6	1	.857	—
Brooklyn	5	2	.714	1
Boston	6	4	.600	1 1/2
Philadelphia	5	4	.556	2
Toronto	2	7	.222	5

Southeast Division

Miami	8	3	.727	—
Charlotte	4	4	.500	2 1/2
Atlanta	4	4	.500	2 1/2
Orlando	3	5	.375	3 1/2
Washington	0	8	.000	6 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	6	2	.750	—
Chicago	5	4	.556	1 1/2
Indiana	4	6	.400	3
Cleveland	2	7	.222	4 1/2
Detroit	1	9	.100	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	8	1	.889	—
San Antonio	8	2	.800	1/2
Dallas	6	5	.545	3
Houston	4	5	.444	4
New Orleans	3	5	.375	4 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	7	3	.700	—
Minnesota	5	4	.556	1 1/2
Utah	5	6	.455	2 1/2
Portland	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Denver	4	6	.400	3

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	7	2	.778	—
Golden State	5	4	.556	2
L.A. Lakers	4	5	.444	3
Phoenix	4	7	.364	4
Sacramento	2	7	.222	5

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	9	85	56	242	26.9
Harden, HOU	9	75	76	240	26.7
Durant, OKC	10	85	63	245	24.5
James, MIA	11	108	39	269	24.5
Irving, CLE	9	78	46	220	24.4
Anthony, NYK	7	58	37	163	23.3
Aldridge, POR	9	78	37	193	21.4
Mayo, DAL	11	77	44	234	21.3
Batum, POR	9	66	29	187	20.8
Crawford, LAC	9	60	44	186	20.7
Ellis, MIL	8	60	35	162	20.3
Pierce, BOS	10	62	56	199	19.9
Gay, MEM	9	69	32	178	19.8
Bosh, MIA	11	79	57	216	19.6
Westbrook, OKC	10	69	46	196	19.6
Lillard, POR	9	61	29	174	19.3
Holiday, PHL	9	63	33	172	19.1
Howard, LAL	9	62	48	172	19.1
DeRozan, TOR	9	63	40	170	18.9
Walker, CHA	8	55	37	150	18.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	42	61	.689
Chandler, NYK	26	42	.619
Howard, LAL	62	102	.608
Sanders, MIL	31	51	.608
Landry, GOL	54	89	.607
Kirilenko, MIN	46	77	.597
Kaman, DAL	57	97	.588
McGee, DEN	51	88	.580
Ibaka, OKC	59	103	.573
Lopez, Bro	52	92	.565

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Randolph, MEM	9	49	76	125	13.9
Asik, HOU	9	42	77	119	13.2
Varejao, CLE	8	39	64	103	12.9
Jefferson, UTA	11	30	98	128	11.6
Hickson, POR	9	39	63	102	11.3
Howard, LAL	9	36	65	101	11.2
Faried, DEN	10	56	55	111	11.1
Lee, GOL	9	23	69	92	10.2
Durant, OKC	10	9	93	102	10.2
Gasol, LAL	9	24	65	89	9.9

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	9	121	13.4
Paul, LAC	9	92	10.2
Vasquez, NOR	8	71	8.9
Holiday, PHL	9	77	8.6
Westbrook, OKC	10	85	8.5
Jennings, MIL	8	64	8.0
Parker, SAN	9	71	7.9
Williams, Bro	7	54	7.7
Lawson, DEN	10	75	7.5
Dragic, PHX	11	80	7.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Students, youth teams excel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Students-athletes and youth squads showed up in last week's competitions.

In the 19th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships, more than 100 students from 16 schools joined the morning race at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. The list included Whispering Palms, Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, Garapan Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Brilliant Star, Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Agape Christian School, Seventh Day Adventist, Koblerville, Hopwood Junior High School, Marianas High Schol, and Grace Christian Academy.

Later in the afternoon, students in elementary, junior high school, and high school went to Susupe to compete in the 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 2. Saipan Community School, Agape Christian School, Hopwood, and MHS ruled their respective races.

Still in inter-school event, the GCA Eagles and SIS White Geckos gained a share of the lead in the MISO boys volleyball league after notching two wins each last week at the MHS Gymnasium. The Eagles and Geckos hold similar 10-1 cards.

Over at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the defending champions Sonics earned a return trip to the finals of the U20 division of the Rotary youth caging. The Sonics were scheduled to face either Proa or Hi-Five in the one-game finale last weekend. In the U16 division, it was Rollers 1 versus Proa.

In more age group competitions results, Paire's boys U18 squad topped the NMIFA fall league, while MP United remained undefeated in the boys U15. In the girls U15, MP United edged Paire, while Tan Holdings saved a draw against Matansa.

Still in soccer, Matansa gained back-to-back wins in the Division 2 of M-League, while in Division 1, Wild Bill's was handed a victory via forfeiture over KFAS and Paire drew Tan Holdings.

In other events, defending champion Saipan Badminton Club and the Berks Blazers got off to strong starts in the 2012 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament. SBC won over Golden Racquets, while the Blazers downed TAGA Badminton Club. The Golden Racquets went on to recover against Shirley's, while SBC defeated Berks in the next pairings.

Over on Tinian, Nap Dizon and Mieko Carey clinched the men's and women's crown in the Tour De Tinian 100-Kilometer Veterans Day Mountain Bike Race.

Back on Saipan, the foursome of Jerry and Diane Zedde, Hae Jun Park, and Jim Weber prevailed in the 17th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Tournament held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Saipan Southern High School's Nevin Salem jumps up to try and block a spike from Mount Carmel Knights' John Saludez, left, during their game in the MISO boys volleyball league last week at the Marinas High School Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Hi-Five's Frank Macahito drives from the wing against a Rollers 2 defender during their playoff game in the U20 division of the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Students head back to the starting line of last week's 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 2.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire's Zhi Peng Lin is hemmed in by two MP United-2 defenders during their boys U18 game in the NMIFA fall league last week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Berks Blazers' Ferdie Arago serves while teammate Lani Bartolome gets ready during their match against Saipan Badminton Club's Sam Jones and Hannah Choi and Sam Jones in the Trades Insurance badminton tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Students wait for the start of their respective race during last week's 19th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Sonics' John Paul Villanueva slashes through the lane during their semis game against the Rollers 1 in the U20 division of the Rotary caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Back-to-back U20 titles for Sonics

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Sonics pose for a team photo after winning the championship of the Rotary caging U20 division last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics captured their second consecutive championship in the Rotary Club of Saipan's 21st Annual Youth Basketball League U20 age division after completing a 59-53 victory over Marianas Resort-Proa last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics are made up of Bryl Alegre, Jack Aranda, Melvin Cadiang, Ezra Caro, Jaymark Deguzman, Herman Del Rosario, Eldiberto Javier III, Paul Mariano, Adrian Palacios, Nevin Salem, Tim Sula, Jimmy Tudela, and John Paul Villanueva. Omar Ojoste served as their coach.

Cadiang, Caro, Del Rosario, Palacios, Sula, and Villanueva are moving on next season, but the group still has a good core of players coming back next season.

"All season long I wanted them to focus primarily on defense and was confident that the offense would be there provided that they communicated and play smart by sharing the ball to find the

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26

Ackerman leads jr. singles champs list

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Second-seeded Dylan Ackerman avoided the upset axe of Michael Ren to clinch the championship in the boys U15 singles of the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Ackerman swept Ren in the finals yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis court, 6-2, 6-2, to win his first boys U15 crown this season. The newly crowned champion took the title without dropping a single set, as he also made short work of Aaron Lee in the semifinals of the lower

See ACKERMAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dylan Ackerman goes for a baseline return, while teammate Colin Ramsey looks on during their doubles game against Tommy Choi and Moris Villanueva in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Kanoa 3-on-3 caging down to 4 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Only four squads are left to contend for the championship in the 2012 Kanoa Resort 3-on-3 Co-ed Basketball Tournament after four matches were completed last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Ball So Hard and Cook Kids Only advanced to the semifinals of the winner's bracket after recording separate wins, while Posse and Tappers stayed alive after prevailing in their respective games in the loser's draw.

Ball So Hard, which won its opening game against 246, moved into the semis of the double-elimination tournament

See KANOA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Lily Williams, right, seen here fighting for possession, scored 18 points in Ball So Hard's 34-9 rout of Tappers in the Kanoa 3-on-3 caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Lady Dolphins complete 2nd straight perfect season

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

As expected, the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins did not disappoint in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization 2012-2013 girls basketball tournament, stamping its second consecutive perfect season in the books with a 79-35 championship-clinching victory over Mount Carmel School Lady Knights last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Lady Dolphins are made up of Rachel Abrams, Kim Ada, Erream Badilles, Jeradline and Jeralyn Castillo, Lahaina Gatchalain, Kristine Guevara, Charlene Lizardo, Francisco Lovely, Marlene Lumabi, Kim Ocampo, Shelo Olivos, Friendly Pena, Gabrielle Race, and Glorily Williams.

The team is coached by Steve Jentz and Preston Basa.

After the game, MISO president Nick Gross presented the two-time champs with the perpetual trophy, which will be held on display once again in MHS' trophy case until next year.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Marianas High School Lady Dolphins pose for a group photo with the perpetual MISO trophy after winning the 2012-2013 women's basketball championship Saturday afternoon at the MHS Gymnasium.

"Defense and hustle is what we preached all season and their dedication paid off in the end. We are going to take today to celebrate, but the first day of upcoming season starts tomorrow," said Jentz after the game as the team took turns cutting down the net.

Sure MHS dominated the

See LADY on Page 26